JUNJI ITO

STORY COLLECTION

SMASHED

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BLOODSUCKING DARKNESS
血をすする闇

MY EATING DISORDER STARTED...

...AFTER I GOT MY HEART BROKEN.

...

DAMMIT. I'M GOING TO GET SKINNY.

I'LL SHOW HIM! I'LL LOSE WEIGHT AND BECOME A MODEL!

THE WEIGHT WAS STEADILY COMING OFF.

ALL MY HARD WORK PAID OFF.

I'M DONE.

WHAT'S WRONG, NAMI? YOU HAVEN'T EATEN A THING.

I HAVEN'T REACHED MY TARGET WEIGHT YET.

NO!

YOU KEEP THIS UP AND YOU'LL DIE.

NAMI! PLEASE! I NEED YOU TO EAT SOMETHING.

BEFORE LONG, I WAS ALSO THROWING UP BLOOD.

UNH... UNH...

MAYBE TOO MUCH OF THAT HURT MY ESOPHAGUS.

I STARTED THROWING UP WHAT I ATE ON A REGULAR BASIS.

I WENT EVEN FURTHER WITH MY DIET.

HAAH

HAAH

...I STARTED HAVING A STRANGE DREAM.

IT WAS RIGHT AROUND THIS TIME...

PSSH

RAIN.

PLIP

PLIP

PSSSSH

AH!

IT'S BLOOD ...

IT'S RAINING BLOOD.

BLOOD...

SPLUSH

KRK

AH!

AAAAH!

PSSSH

SOME-
ONE,
HELP!

HELP!

EEEAAAAH!

AH!

AH!

WHAT A WEIRD DREAM.

UGH...

...THE BLOOD IN MY MOUTH.

IT'S LIKE, I CAN STILL TASTE...

THIS CREEPY HAND. IT WAS SO REAL...

A RAIN OF BLOOD.

LEAP

DASH

AH!

DRIP

WHAT IS THIS?

WHEN DID THIS...

BLOOD.

THERE ARE SPOTS ALL OVER MY BED, TOO.

I GUESS I DID THROW UP.

MAYBE I THREW UP WHILE I WAS ASLEEP?

GROSS.

SO THAT'S WHY I HAD THAT DREAM.

MORNING, NAMI!

KAZUYA TANI.

TANI FROM CLASS D.

UMM. YOU'RE...?

...

BUT I'VE KNOWN WHO YOU ARE FOR A WHILE.

WE'RE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES, AND I SORT OF JUST BLEND IN.

IT'S NO WONDER YOU DON'T KNOW ME.

ARE YOU ACTUALLY EATING?

PEOPLE ARE LIKE, MAYBE YOU'RE GOING TO DIE SOON.

PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE.

...

YOU LOST ALL THIS WEIGHT ALL OF A SUDDEN.

EVERY-ONE'S WORRIED, YOU KNOW.

HEY! WAIT!!

...I'M NOT STRUG-GLING WITH ANYTHING. AND ANY-WAY, IT HAS NOTHING TO WITH YOU!

YOU CAN TALK TO ME IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH SOME-THING. I CAN BE A SHOULDER TO CRY ON.

...

THAT'S ALL.

I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST, LIKE, I... I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU.

SOME-ONE, HELP!

PSSSSH

HELP!

PSSSSH

EEAAH!!

AH!

BLOOD AGAIN...

AH!!

I HATE THIS!!

HOW LONG AM I GOING TO KEEP HAVING IT?

THAT DREAM ...

!

LEAP

I FEEL AWFUL, AND I'M NOT LOSING WEIGHT LIKE I WANT TO.

THIS IS THE WORST.

...TANI? IS THAT YOU?

HEY... NAMI...

OH... YEAH, I'M JUST A LITTLE ...

YOU LOOK REALLY AWFUL.

WHAT'S WRONG?

W-WHAT?!

YOU'RE DIETING, SO I FIGURED I WOULD, TOO.

...I'M ON A DIET, TOO...

ACTU-ALLY...

UPSY-DAISY!

DON'T BE SO STUPID!!

TH-THAT'S ...

AS LONG AS YOU KEEP GOING, I WON'T STOP.

THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP UP THIS IMPOSSIBLE DIET, THEN I WILL TOO...

I'M ON A DIET FOR YOU... BECAUSE...

YOU GOING ON A DIET BECAUSE OF YOUR EX-BOYFRIEND IS THE SAME THING, ISN'T IT?

YOU SAY IT'S STUPID, BUT...

...

I LIKE YOU...

FOR SOME REASON, I WAS DRAWN TO HIM.

PROBABLY BECAUSE I WAS LONELY.

EVEN WHEN I WANT TO EAT, I CAN'T.

MAYBE I DO ACTUALLY HAVE AN EATING DISORDER.

NO, I CAN'T DO THAT.

I MEAN, I'M TRYING. CAN'T YOU JUST GO AHEAD AND EAT, THOUGH?

IF YOU CAN'T EAT, THEN I'M STUCK LIKE THIS, TOO.

...WELL, THAT'S A PROBLEM.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.

RIGHT... NAMI. YOU WANT TO COME TO MY HOUSE?

IT'S OVER THERE.

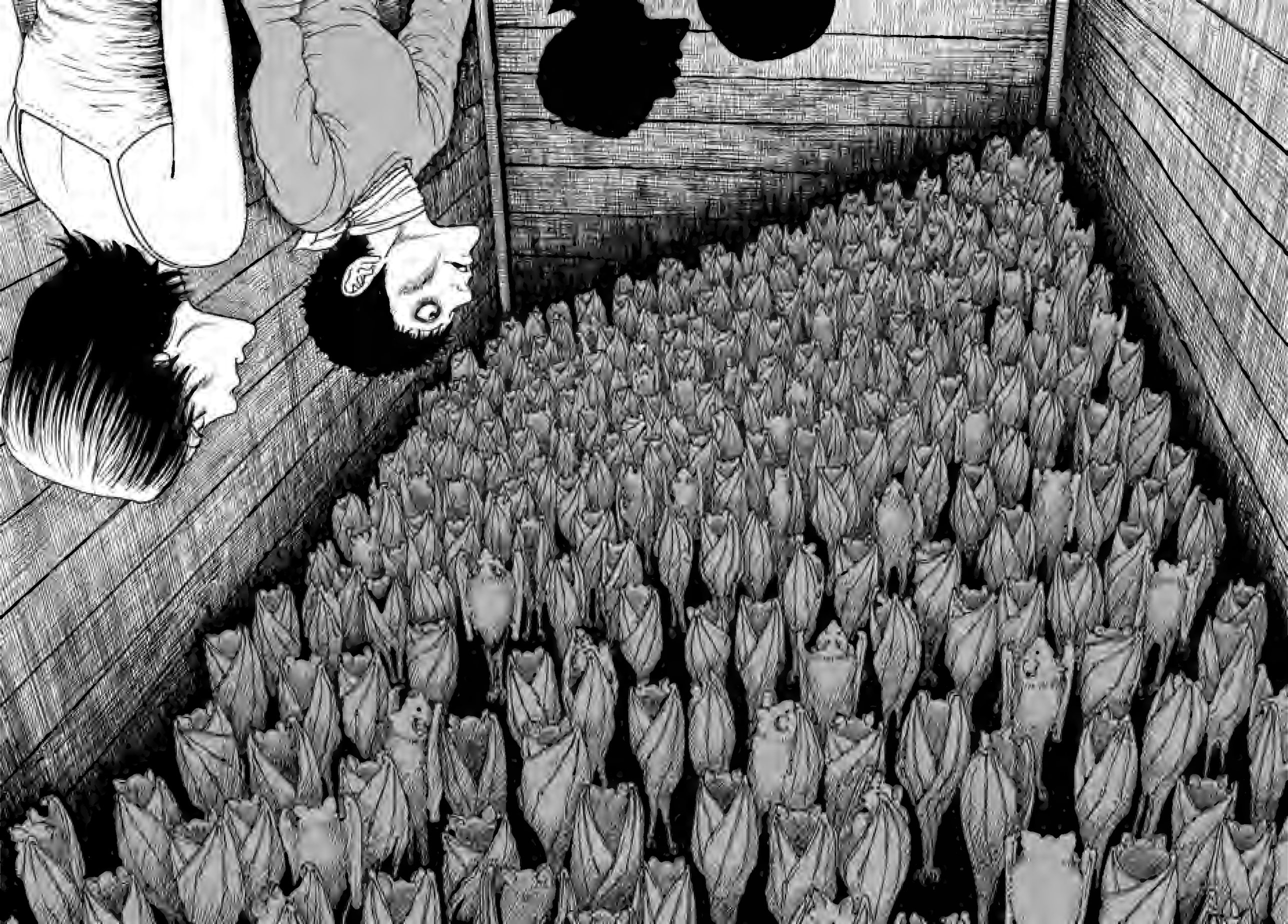
THAT SHED.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SHOW ME?

THIS IS IT. OKAY, COME IN.

HERE... COME ON INSIDE.

KREEEEE



THEY'RE MY PETS.

MY FRIENDS, Y'KNOW?

IT'S OKAY!!

AAAH! BATS!!

THAT'S KYUSUKE...

THAT'S CHUTARO.

THAT'S PERO.

THEY'RE RARE BATS. THEY DON'T NORMALLY LIVE IN JAPAN.

COME.

PERO.

OH!

HIS HAND...

WRIGGLE

WRIGGLE

UIZD

HAK

CUTE, RIGHT?

IS IT YUMMY, PERO?

IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL.

LICK LICK

I'VE BEEN GIVING THEM A LOT, ESPECIALLY LATELY.

IT'S FINE. I ALWAYS LET THEM DRINK MY BLOOD.

T-TANI... ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD DO THAT?

SDROING

THE DIET THING WAS A LIE.

I'VE LOST A TON OF WEIGHT THANKS TO THEM.

ARE YOU FULL?

BOING BOING

FWMP

BOING

HE KNOWS YOU'RE HUNGRY.

PERO'S TRYING TO SHARE THE BLOOD HE DRANK WITH YOU.

AAAH!

AAH!

BOING

KEE

KEE

IT'S WHAT THESE SOUTH AMERICAN BATS DO. THEY SHARE BLOOD WITH THEIR GROUP, HELP EACH OTHER OUT.

YOU'RE MY FRIEND, SO THE BATS THINK YOU'RE A FRIEND TOO.

BOING

AAAAH!

PEH

WHAP

NOOO!

AAAH! PERO! ARE YOU OKAY?!

BAM

PERO WAS ONLY TRYING TO BE NICE AND SHARE BLOOD WITH YOU!!

NAMI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

AND SEND THEM FLYING TO YOU!!

AND I WANT TO HELP YOU, SO I FEED THE BATS A LOT OF MY BLOOD.

AND NOT JUST PERO!! THE BATS SNEAK INTO THE ROOM WHERE YOU'RE SLEEPING EVERY NIGHT AND FEED YOU MY BLOOD.

TO HELP YOU. YOU'RE MALNOURISHED ...

I SAVED YOU WITH MY BLOOD!!

IT'S NO JOKE.

YOU CAN'T BE... YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT ?!

W-WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

CHATTER

CHATTER

EEEAAAAAAAH!!

UNH ...

HNGH ...

FLAP FLAP

FLAP FLAP

NAMI!

NOOOOO! STAY AWAY FROM MEEEE!

PLEASE WAIT!

CLANG CLANG CLANG

CLANG CLANG CLANG

WAIT!

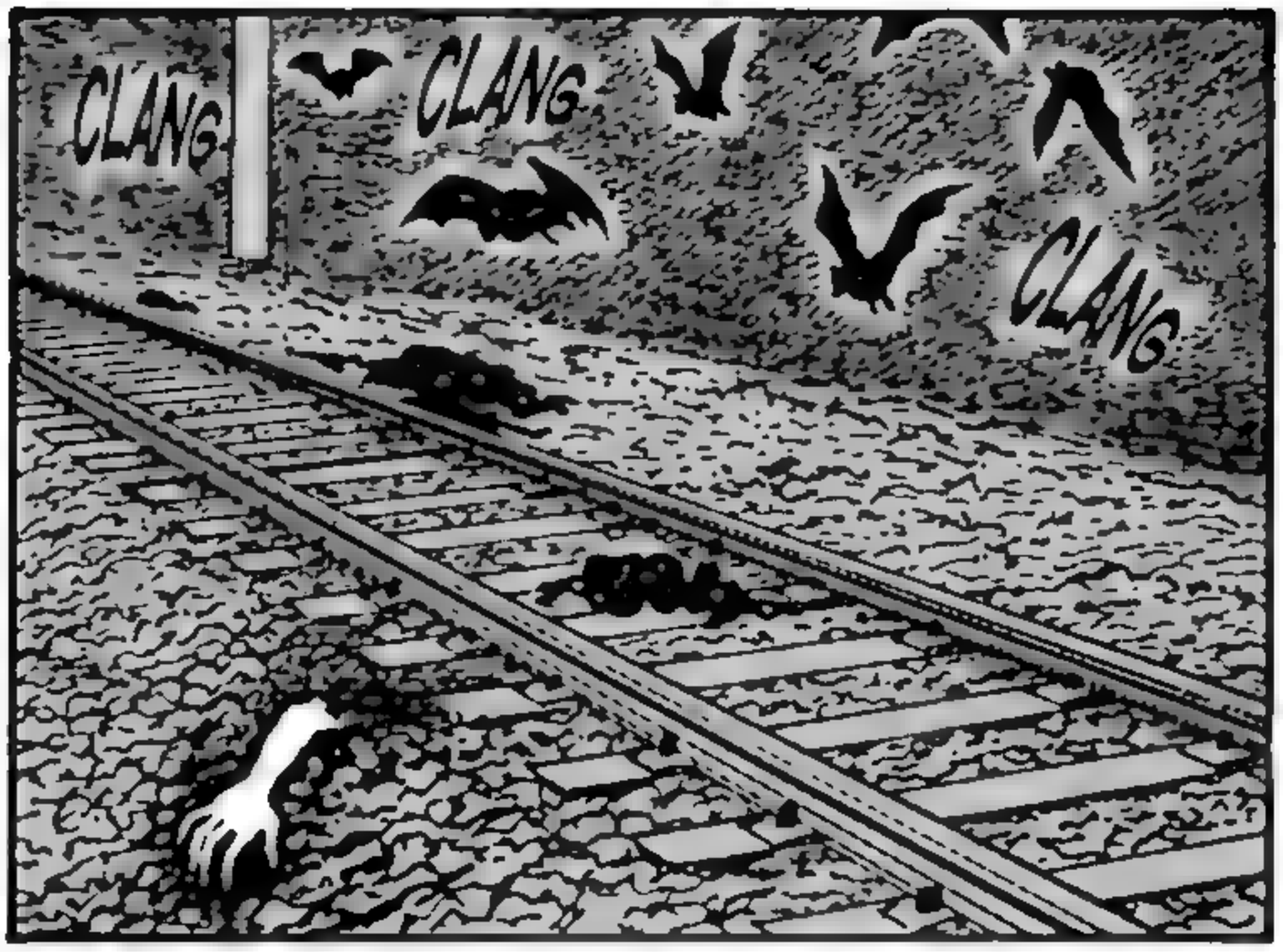
YAAAAA

NAMI!

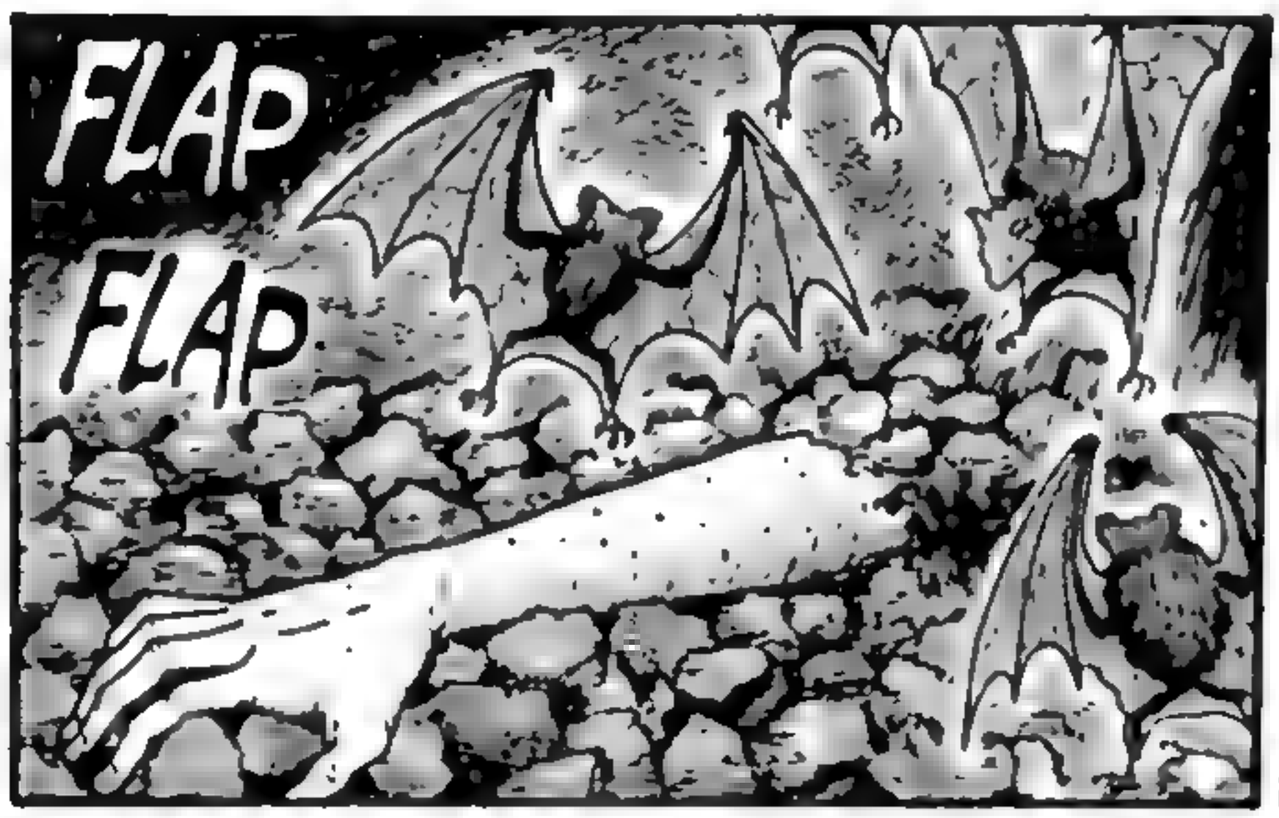
?!

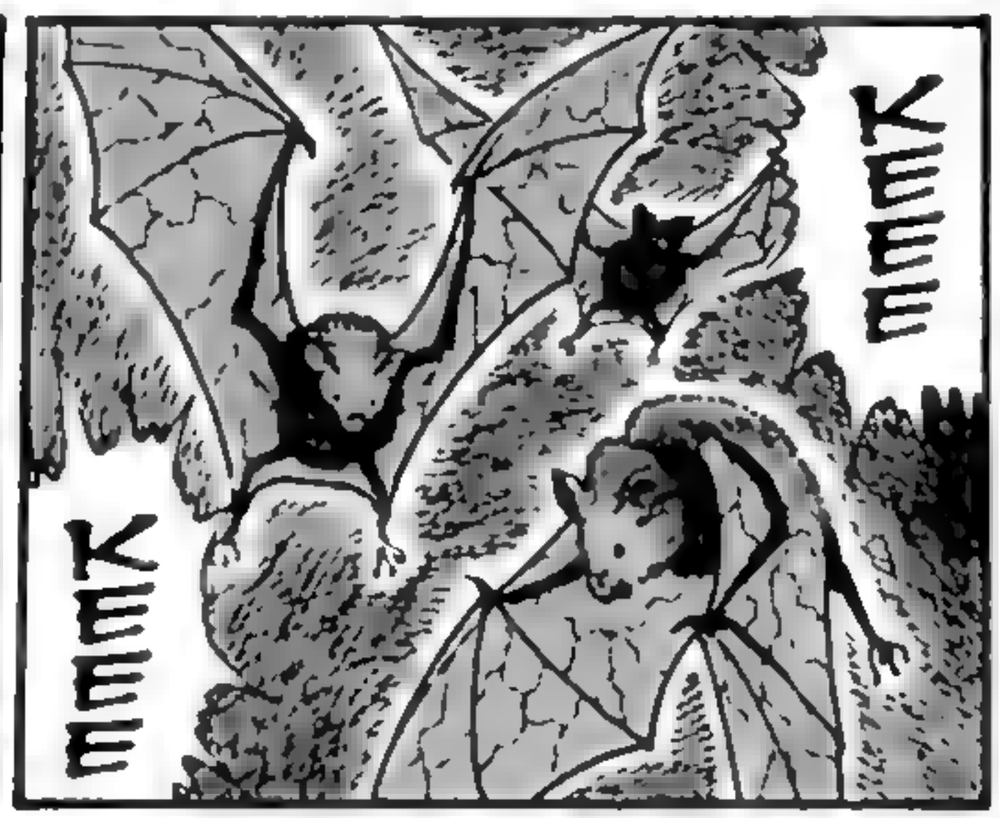
KRRRRRR

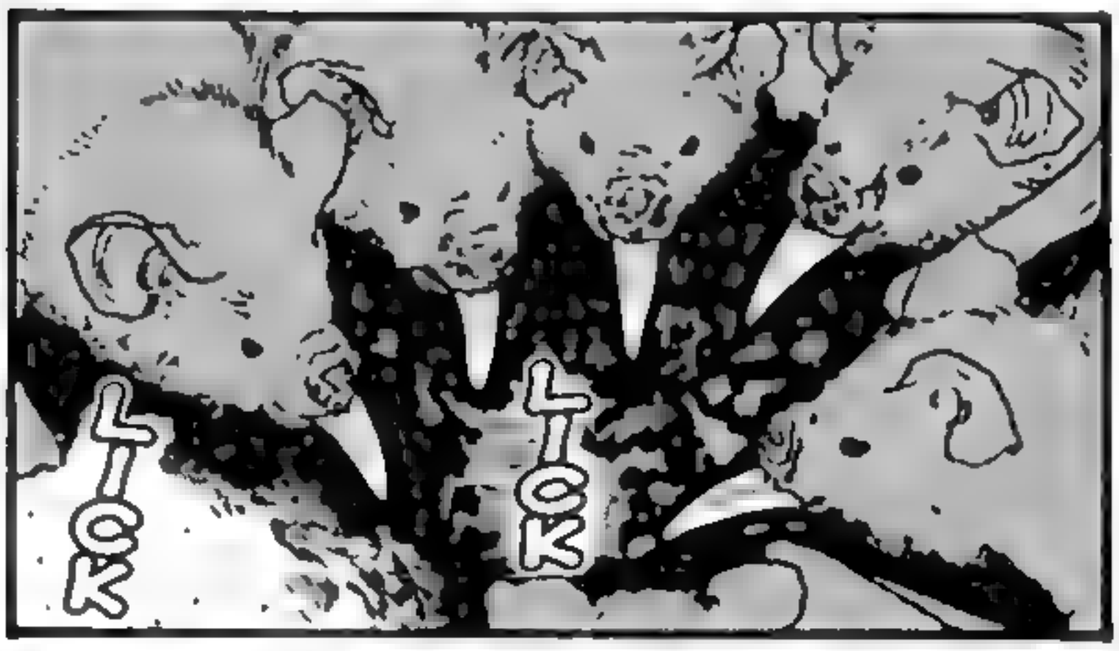
SPLAK


CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

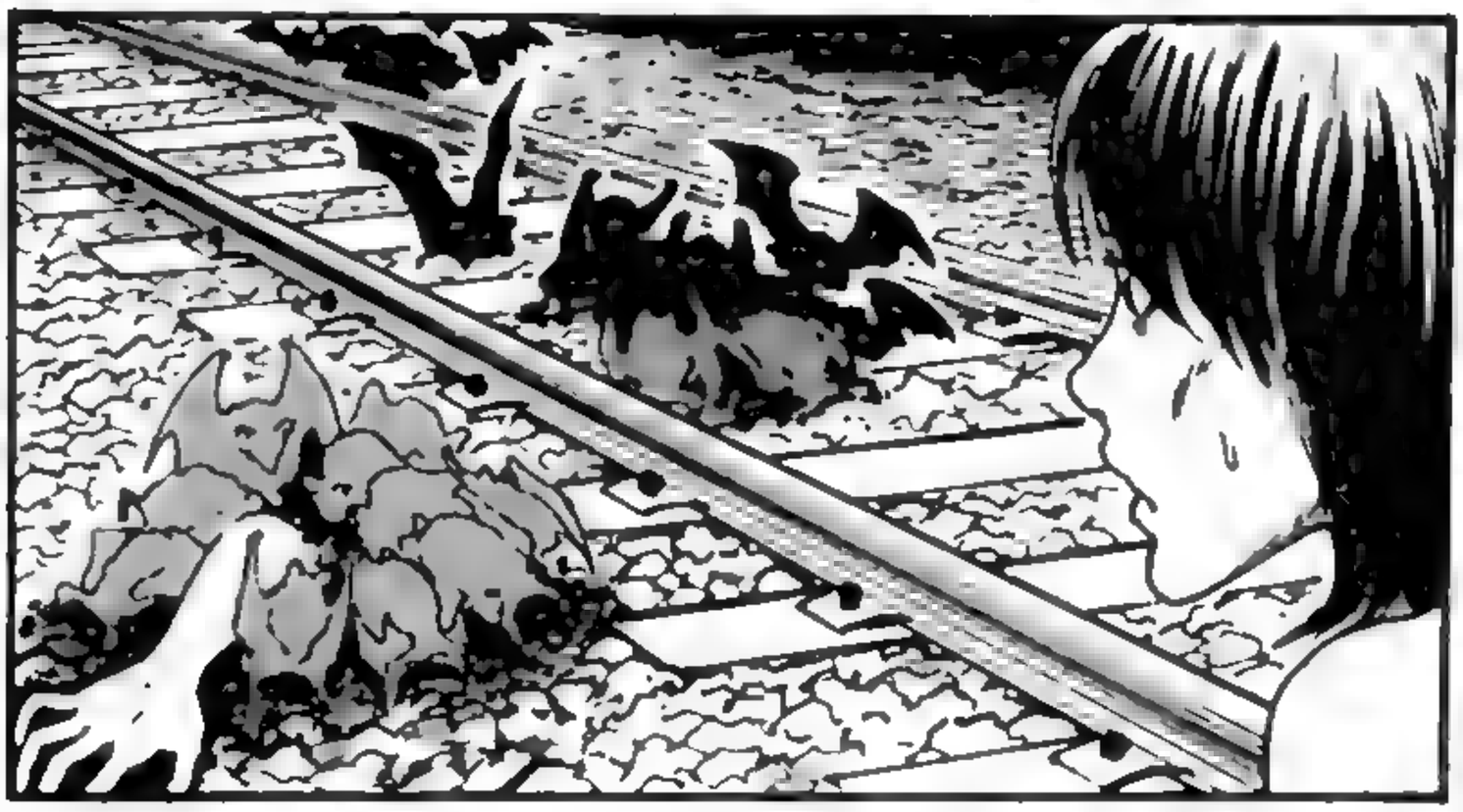
CLANG CLANG CLANG


FLAP
FLAP


KEEE
KEEE


LICK
LICK

FLAP
FLAP



LICK
LICK
LICK

FLAP FLAP FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

KEEE

KEEE

KEEE

THUD

THEY DREW COUNTLESS REDDISH-BLACK PATHS IN THE NIGHT SKY.

THE BATS BEGAN TO FLY BACK AND FORTH AMONG THE SCATTERED PIECES OF TANI'S BODY.

BLOOD FROM HERE WAS THROWN UP OVER THERE.

PEH

PEH

BOING

BLOOD THEY DRANK OVER THERE, THEY THREW UP OVER HERE.

BUT SOME-THING WAS OFF.

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST SWARMING AROUND THEIR FOOD.

...WERE TRYING TO SAVE THEIR MASTER.

THE BATS...

IT WAS ALMOST LIKE THEY WERE MAKING THE BLOOD GO BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE BODY PARTS.

TWITCH

LIKE THEY WERE MAKING IT CIRCULATE ...

KEEE

KEEE

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

NAMIIIIII.

NAMIIIIII.

NAMIIIIIII.

AH ?!

NAMIIIIII.

HELP ME...

HELP...

NAMI... HELP...

THE BLOOD... NOT ENOUGH BLOOD...

BAM

UNH... MM...

NAMI!! YOU'RE AWAKE?!

UNNH ...

WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS LYING IN A HOSPITAL BED.

AH!

THEY LOOK LIKE SOMETHING BIT YOU.

NAMI... WHAT ARE THESE MARKS ALL OVER YOU?

WHAT ?!

AND IF IT'S TRUE?! YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!!

YOU WERE DREAMING, HM? POOR THING.

NAMI, CALM DOWN. THERE AREN'T ANY VAMPIRE BATS IN JAPAN.

THE BATS. THIS IS THE WORK OF BLOOD-SUCKING BATS.

THE VAMPIRE BATS WERE DRINKING MY BLOOD!!

I HEARD THEY GATHERED UP HIS BODY PARTS AND BURIED HIM.

IT WAS A FACT THAT KAZUYA TANI WAS HIT BY A TRAIN.

THERE HAS TO BE SOME PART OF HIM OUT THERE SOMEWHERE STILL.

I-I MEAN...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT... THEY SAID THEY GOT ALL OF IT, BUT...

BANG

KEEE

KEEE

BANG

BANG

HIS VOICE CALLING FOR HELP. AND...

I CAN HEAR HIM.

?!

BANG

BANG

NO! STAY BACK!

STAY BACK!!

KEEE

BANG

KEEE

BANG BANG BANG

BANG BANG BANG

BANG BANG BANG

AH?!

BANG

BANG BANG

BANG

BANG

BANG

BOING

BOING

BOING

AAAAAA-
AAAAH!

FLAP
FLAP
TUK TUK TUK TUK TUK TUK
HAAH
HAAH
THERE'S STILL NOT ENOUGH BLOOD... HELP MEEEEEE!
HAAH
HAAH
NAMIIIIII! HELP MEEEEEEEE!
KRSH
I'M GETTING CLOSE TO HIS HEAD.
I'M GETTING CLOSE ...
HEEEEELP!
HEEEEELP!
THE VOICE IS GRADUALLY GETTING LOUDER.

HELP ME...

NAMI... HELP ME...

THE BATS ARE DRAWING PATHS IN THE SKY.

REDDISH-BLACK PATHS...

FLAP FLAP RSTLE

FLAP FLAP

FLAP FLAP FLAP

I KNEW IT... I KNEW THEY DIDN'T GET ALL OF HIM.

T-TANI...

FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

I HAVE TO HELP HIM.

I-

?!

AAAH!

PAT

MWUK

SUDDENLY, A GIANT BAT FLEW UP INTO THE DARKNESS

THE COUNTLESS OTHER BATS TRAILED AFTER IT.

PWAP

FLAP FLAP FLAP

PSSSS

SSSSS

A RAIN OF BLOOD.

THE NEXT INSTANT, RAIN STARTED TO POUR DOWN IN THAT ONE SPOT.

BLOODSUCKING DARKNESS / END

GHOSTS OF PRIME TIME
ゴールデンタイムの幽霊（ゆうれい）

THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS UNKNOWN.

HE WAS FOUND LYING DEAD IN THE ROAD WHILE ON TOUR.

APPARENTLY, HE HAD BEEN A RISING STAR IN THE INDUSTRY. A LOT OF PEOPLE SAW HIM AS THE FUTURE OF COMEDY.

A CERTAIN OBSCURE COMEDIAN DIED THE OTHER DAY.

DYING WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE, NOW *THAT'S* AN ENTERTAINER FOR YOU.

THE SOUL OF A PERFORMER.

WHILE IT DID LOOK LIKE HE HAD SUF-FERED...

THE STRANGE THING WAS HIS FACE.

...IT ALSO LOOKED ALMOST LIKE HE WAS LAUGHING.

I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU, KEISUKE.

IT'S WEIRD. I MEAN, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO BARELY LAUGH WHEN THEY'RE ALIVE, Y'KNOW?

BUT TO THINK SOME PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD ARE LAUGHING EVEN WHEN THEY DIE...

YOU GOT A REASON FOR THAT SOUR FACE OF YOURS?

YOU DO?

I MEAN, I LAUGH SOMETIMES.

THAT'S NOT TRUE, TSUGUO.

I LIVE A VERY DARK LIFE IS ALL.

COME WITH ME JUST ONCE. I'LL MAKE YOU LAUGH.

OH, I'VE GOT IT, KEISUKE.

ALL THE MORE REASON THAT YOU NEED TO LAUGH.

BAICHIKU HALL

A full lineup of young comedians !!

BAICHIKU HALL

BAICHIKU HALL

BWAH

WHAP

I'M ENJOYING IT.

HEY, KEISUKE! ARE YOU BROKEN OR SOMETHING?! SERIOUSLY. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU.

HA HA HA HA!

LET'S SEE... TASOGARE KINTOKI? NEVER HEARD OF THEM.

OKAY. SO WHO'S NEXT?

THANK YOOOOU!

THOSE GUYS ARE ON FIRE. THEY'RE TOTALLY HILARIOUS.

DA-DUM BA-DUM

NO ONE KNOWS WHO WE ARE YET, THOUGH!

AAAH, REAL WHIRLWIND OF A YEAR SINCE WE STARTED ALL THIS. TIME DOES FLY, HUH?

AND I'M AZUKIIIII!

HELLOOOO!! WE'RE TASOGARE KINTOKI! I'M SASAGEEEEE!

TAKE CONTROL!

TAKE CONTROL!

WE'LL TAKE CONTROL ONE O' THESE DAYS!!

BUT WE'RE MAKIN' THINGS HAPPEN WITH OUR COMEDY.

EYE KNOW!

EYE KNOW!

AN' THEN WE'LL BE RICH AN' LIVE IN A MANSION, YA KNOW!!

WE'LL TAKE CONTROL, AN' THEN WE'LL HAVE A TON OF REGULAR PRIME-TIME SPECIALS!!

THIS IS JUST EMBAR-RASSING.

SILENCE

SNICKER SNICKER

THE PEOPLE FILLING THE VENUE WERE UTTERLY UNAMUSED.

TASOGARE KINTOKI CONTINUED THEIR ODD PATTER.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE NOT LAUGHING NOW.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

BUT.

...

WHAT'S SO FUNNY...

SERI-OUSLY?

HEEE! GAH HA HA!

BWAH HA HA!

BWAH HA HA!

AH HA HA HA!

EEEAH HA HA HA HA!

...SO THAT IN THE END, THE VENUE WAS A MAELSTROM OF LAUGHTER.

BWAH HA HA HA HA

IS THAT SO, SASAGE?

BWAH HA HA-HA

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS, AZUKI.

HA HA HA HA!

SHOOT, SHOOT, SHOOTIN' GIRL!

BWAH HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA

THAT'S RIGHT, SASAGE. LET'S SHOOT FOR THE MOON!

NO BORDERS FOR OUR COMEDY, AFTER ALL!

WE'RE FINALLY GOING TO FLY OFF INTO THE WORLD.

...

BWAH HA HA HA!

HEEEE! HEEEE!

EEEAH HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA! LET GO!

LET'S GO.

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW.

H-HEY, TSUGUO ?

BWAH HA HA HA HEE HEE

BWAH HA HA

HA HA HA HA HA

WE'RE LEAVING.

HA HA BWAH HA HA HA

TSUGUO!

BEHAVE YOUR-SELVES!!

Q-QUIT IT!

?!

BWAH HA HA HA!

BWAH HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA

HEEEEE! HEEE!

HA HA HA!

KEISUKE... THEY WERE TOTALLY SHILLS, THOSE GUYS WHO STARTED LAUGHING FIRST.

I MEAN, IT'S NOT NATURAL. LAUGHING TO BUST A GUT OVER SUCH A BORING ACT.

AAAAAH.

MY STOMACH STILL HURTS.

BUT...

IT WAS KIND OF WEIRD.

THEY EVEN GOT ME LAUGHING WITH THEM.

KEISUKE... YOU DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING?

MAYBE IT WAS JUST THE MOOD IN THE PLACE...

BUT THEN I STARTED TO FEEL LIKE I *HAD* TO LAUGH. LIKE, I COULDN'T STOP LAUGHING MY ASS OFF.

AT FIRST, I WAS JUST LAUGHING AT THE PEOPLE LAUGHING, YOU KNOW?

WHY WOULD YOU, THOUGH? YOU DIDN'T LAUGH AT ALL.

I WANT TO SEE WHY I WAS LAUGHING SO HARD.

HEY, KEISUKE? YOU WANT TO GO SEE THEIR ACT AGAIN?

INCLUD-ING THE SHILLS?

WHY NOT?

YOU SHOULD NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN.

TSUGUO, YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT!

HUH?

WHAT A WEIRD GUY.

WHAT THE...

...?

OKAY, I'M LEAVING... SEE YOU.

BECAUSE!! I'M WARNING YOU AS A FRIEND!!

...I'LL JUST GO BY MYSELF, MAYBE.

THAT'S THAT THEN. TOMOR-ROW...

KEISUKE, IT'S TSUGUO.

RRRRRING

RRRRRING

...FINE. I'LL COME OUTSIDE.

BEEP

YEAH.

WHAT? NOW?

KEISUKE, I'M ACTUALLY RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER FROM YOUR PLACE.

TSUGUO ?

HELLO?

AH!

HEY, TSUGUO. WHAT DO YOU WANT? IT'S LATE—

HEY, KEISUKE! OVER HERE.

SORRY TO BUG YOU.

HEY.

AND THIS IS AZUKI.

I ACTUALLY WANTED TO INTRODUCE YOU.

THIS IS SASAGE.

WHAT IS THIS... TSUGUO...

WH—

HEEEELLOOOOO! WE'RE TASOGARE KINTOKI. SASAGE AND AZUKIIIIII!

YUP, UH-HUH! WE PROLLY WALKED TO HELL AND BACK TO FIND YA!

WE WANTED TO MEET YA SO BAD. WE BEEN LOOKIN' ALL OVER!

THEY SAID THEY WANTED TO MEET YOU, SO.

OH... IT'S JUST...

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

TSUGUO!

HNGAH HA HA!

...

HNK! HNGH!

HNGH!

BUT WHY'D YOU BOYS GO HOME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SHOW? OUR COMEDY BORE YOU?!

THANKS FOR COMIN' TO SEE US PERFORM TODAY!

AH! HA! HA!

HEEE! HEEE!

IT! IT HURTS! HEE HEE HEE!

AH! HA! HA!

YOU'RE A WEIRD ONE. GOT NO FUNNY BONE?!

YOU ESPECIALLY. DIDN'T SO MUCH AS SNICKER.

WHAP

WHAP

S-STOP!

GRAB

COME ON!

TSUGUO !

I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING!

HEE HEE HEE! KEISUKE... HELP ME...

SLAM

I THINK IT'S STOP-PING... HEE!

Y— YEAH! I'M OKAY! HEE!

TSUGUO, YOU OKAY?!

HEEE! HEEE! HEE!

I SAW SOMETHING!! I WASN'T GOING TO SAY ANYTHING, BUT...

...I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I SAW IN THAT THEATER.

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH FUNNY COMEDI-ANS BEFORE.

HON-ESTLY... WHAT IS WITH THEM...

NO... YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING BECAUSE OF THEIR COMEDY.

IT WASN'T LONG AFTER THE TWO OF THEM STARTED THEIR ACT.

HA HA HA
HA HA!

EEAH HA HA
HA HA HA!

I COULD SEE THEM... COUNTLESS WHITE THINGS SLIPPING OUT OF THEIR BODIES AND FLOATING AROUND THE THEATER.

BWAH HA HA HA

HEE HEE HEE HEE

EEAH HA HA HA HA

THEY WRAPPED AROUND ONE PERSON AFTER ANOTHER IN THE AUDIENCE AND STARTED TICKLING THEM.

THE GHOST OF A LIVING PERSON. THEIR EIDOLON...

I THINK IT WAS THEIR SOULS.

...THOSE TWO REALLY *WERE* TICKLING YOU.

I KNOW YOU SAY A COMEDIAN "TICKLES" YOU WHEN THEY MAKE YOU LAUGH, BUT...

AND WITH EXQUISITE SKILL.

WHEN I WALK DOWN THE STREET, I CAN SEE SPIRITS. THE GHOSTS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAD AND PEOPLE WHO ARE ALIVE...

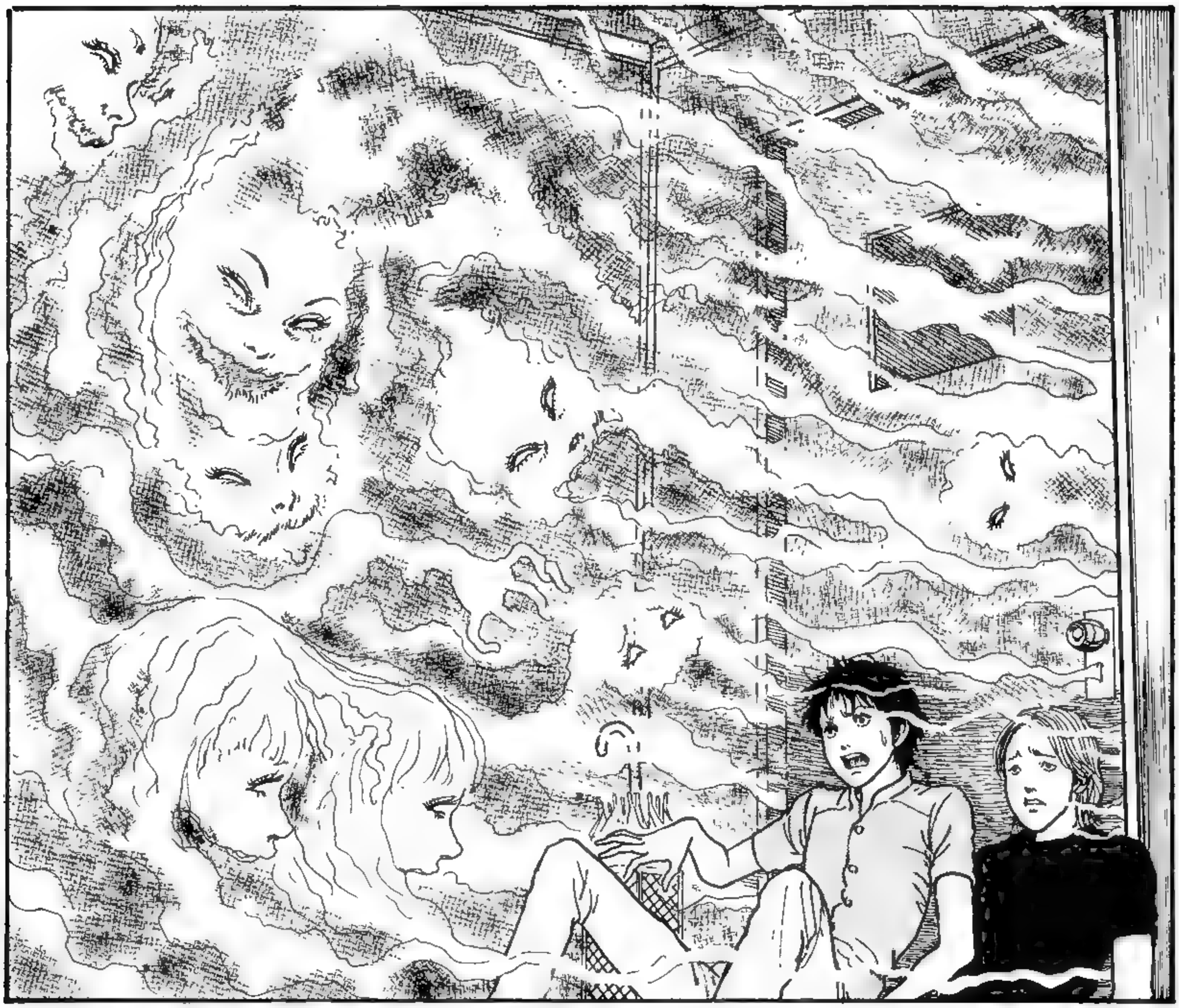
I'M AFRAID OF THEM. THAT'S WHY I'VE LIVED MY DAYS IN DARKNESS.

I CAN SEE STUFF LIKE THAT. EVER SINCE I WAS A KID...

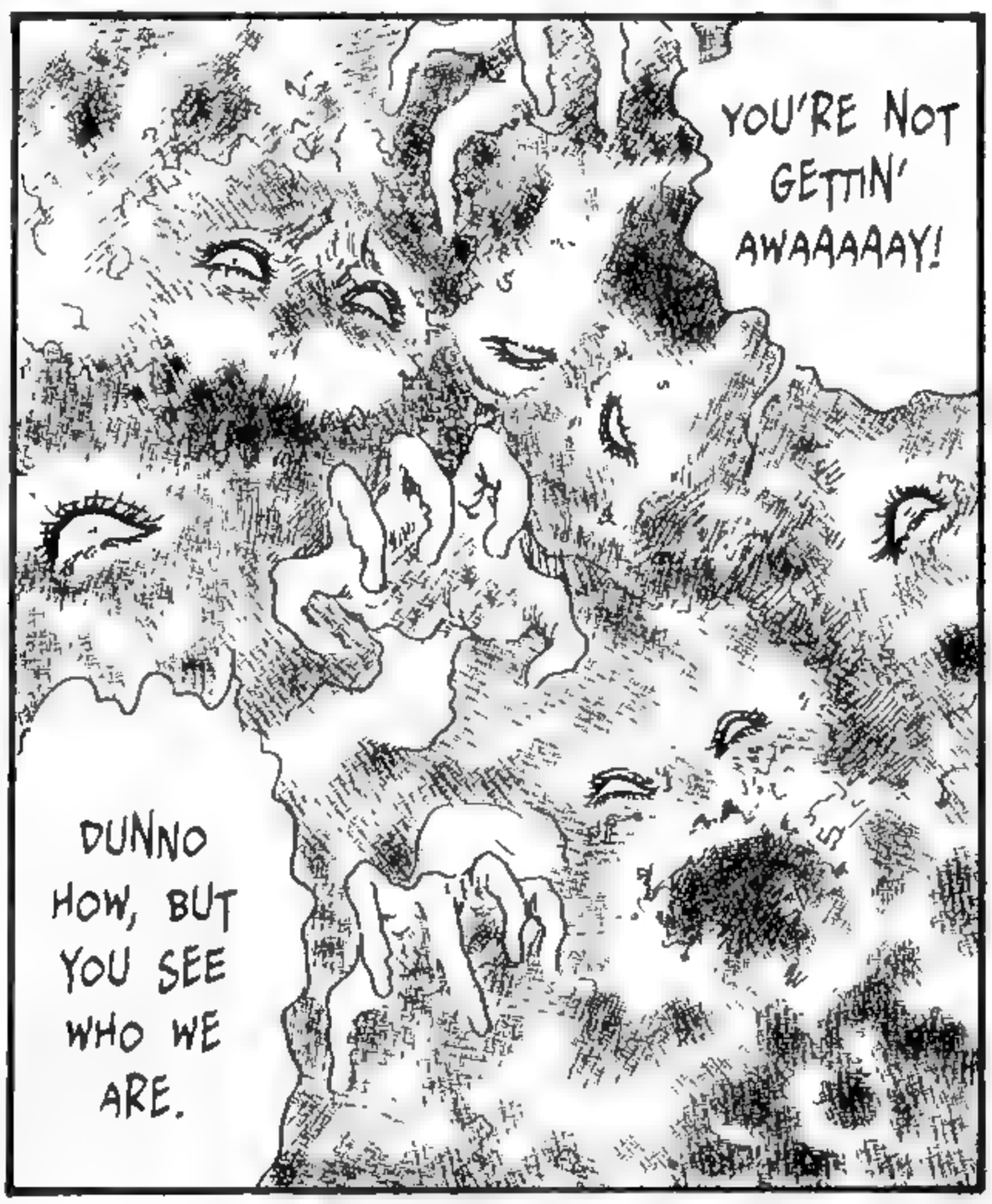
I MEAN, USING THEIR OWN SOULS TO SATISFY THEIR DESIRES...

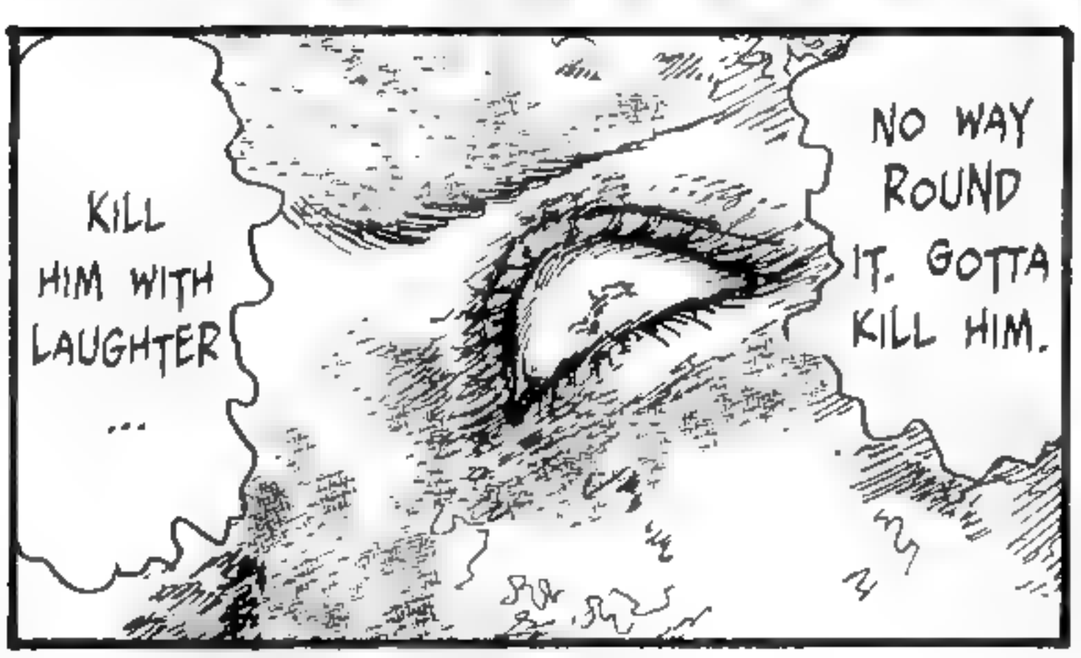
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THOSE TWO BEFORE.

AH?!



WE CAN'T GO LETTIN' YA LIVE NOW.
AND THAT'S NO GOOD.


YOU'RE NOT GETTIN' AWAAAAAY!
DUNNO HOW, BUT YOU SEE WHO WE ARE.


KILL HIM WITH LAUGHTER ...
NO WAY ROUND IT. GOTTA KILL HIM.

AH!

GET AWAY FROM ME!

KEISUKE? WHAT'S GOING ON?

GAH HA HA HA HA!

TSUGUO! DON'T LAUGH! YOU'LL SUFFOCATE!!

GO BACK INSIDE!

MOM! STAY BACK!

BWAH HA HA HA HA!

KEISUKE ?

WHAT?

HEEAH HEEAH!

EEAH! EEAH HA HA!

MOM!!

HNGAH HA HA HA!

MOM AND TSUGUO, SHAKE THE EIDOLONS OFF!

DAMMIT!

KZAY

GET AWAY FROM THEM! GO!

BASH BASH

HEE HEE HEE!

HEEE! HEEE!

BASH BASH

BWAH HA HA HA!

HEEEE! HEEEE!

BWAH HA HA HA HA HA!

AH!

AAAH!

DON'T LAUGH! BOTH OF YOU! FIGHT BACK!!

WELL, WE KEEP TICKLIN' AN' HE'LL DIE SOON ENOUGH.

SO STUBBORN. STILL PRETENDIN' TO FIGHT BACK, THAT GUY...

HEEE! HEEE!

HNGEH HEH HEH!

YAH. CREEEEPY... BUT WE CAN JUST GO AHEAD AN' KILL THE ONES WHO DON'T LAUGH.

BUT, AZUKI, THERE ARE MORE GUYS WHO DON'T CRACK UP AT OUR COMEDY.

YAH. AN' THEN IT'S PRIME TIME DEAD AHEAD!!

GUESS SO. AN' ANYONE ELSE WHO GETS IN OUR WAY.

AH.

MOM! MOM!

AH!

...

Y-YES, I'M ALL RIGHT...

MOM! ARE YOU OKAY?!

UNH... UNH.

TSUGUO ...

...WAS DEAD.

TSUGUO ...

TSUGUO! STAY WITH ME!

TSUGUO !!

AH!

THERE WAS NO WAY THEY WOULD HAVE BELIEVED HIM.

KEISUKE NEVER TOLD THE POLICE THE TRUTH.

THEY GARNERED WIDESPREAD PRAISE. PEOPLE SAID THEY WERE TOTALLY FRESH, THAT THEIR STYLE OF COMEDY HAD NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE.

"I DON'T KNOW WHY TASOGARE KINTOKI ARE FUNNY, BUT I LAUGH ANYWAY."

-MORNING TIMES

AFTER THAT, THE COMEDY DUO TASOGARE KINTOKI RAPIDLY MADE THEIR MARK...

...UNTIL EVENTUALLY THEY WERE APPEARING ON PRIME-TIME TV.

...THEY REALIZED THE HUGE POTENTIAL OF THEIR SOULS RIDING ON THE ELECTRICAL WAVES.

WHEN THEY SAW THEIR COMEDY ACTUALLY SPREAD TO LIVING ROOMS...

HEEEE! HEEEE!

HA HA HA HA HA!

WE'RE TASOGARE KINTOKI!!!!!

THANK YOU!

ROAR

轟音

ごうおん

KSH

KSH

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE LOST, MIMURA...

SERI-OUSLY ?

HEY, MASAKI? WHERE-ABOUTS ARE WE?

THE MAGNETIC FIELD'S WONKY?

IT IS.

LOOK. THE COMPASS IS ALL OVER THE PLACE.

I CAN'T TELL WHAT DIRECTION, EITHER.

ROAR

HM?

WHAT?

HUH? MY CELL'S WEIRD, TOO. THE SCREEN'S BLANK.

ROAR

LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT.

ROAR

...A WATER-FALL?

BUT THE SOUND JUST STARTED ALL OF A SUDDEN.

ROAR

ROAR

EEEEEE!

AAAAAAH!

EEEAAAH!

HELP MEEEEE!

ROAAR

THE CURRENT'S SO STRONG. THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN HELP THEM!

DAMMIT! MY CELL'S NOT WORKING EITHER!

ROAAR

THIS IS BAD! IT'S A FLOOD!

RO AR

RO AA R

ROAAR

ROAR

ROAR

MAYBE WE CAN DO SOMETHING TO SAVE ONE PERSON AT LEAST...

MAYBE A DAM BROKE.

IT'S NOT EVEN RAINING. WHERE'D THAT FLOOD COME FROM?!

THIS IS SO WEIRD.

HUH?

SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO GOT WASHED AWAY MIGHT BE DOWN HERE.

LET'S FOLLOW THE TRACKS.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A DAM BREAKING. SO A TON OF WATER JUST SWEPT OVER A VILLAGE!!

WHERE'S THE FLOOD?! IT'S GONE ALREADY?!

THERE WAS A FLOOD HERE A SECOND AGO, BUT...

THERE'S SOME-THING STRANGE ABOUT THIS, THOUGH.

...THE GROUND'S NOT WET. WHY NOT?

THE ROCKS ARE A LITTLE WORN, AND I MEAN, THE PLANTS...

BUT... IT *DOES* LOOK LIKE SOMETHING SWEPT THROUGH HERE.

WE HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND PIECES OF HOUSES OR ANYTHING.

MIMURA, IT'S THE SAME NO MATTER HOW FAR WE GO.

THIS IS BAD... LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SLEEPING OUTSIDE TONIGHT.

AND OUR PHONES AREN'T WORKING.

IT'S GETTING DARK.

I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY, SO I DON'T PARTICULARLY MIND DYING A DOG'S DEATH ON THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE.

IF WE DON'T GET HOME SAFE, YOUR FAMILY'LL BE ALL BROKEN UP, MIMURA.

YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN OKAY?

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN EASY HIKE, AND NOW LOOK AT US.

I'M A WANDER-ING MAN, YOU KNOW?

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

AND I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM SINCE.

RELATIVES... THEY WERE ALWAYS FOISTING ME ONTO OTHER PEOPLE WHEN I WAS LITTLE. EVENTUALLY, THEY LEFT ME AT AN ORPHANAGE.

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT, MASAKI? I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT RELATIVES, RIGHT?

AT LEAST WE WON'T FREEZE TO DEATH.

GLAD IT'S SUMMER.

ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE SAYING.

HEY, MASAKI?

MAKING TROUBLE FOR MY UNCLE AND AUNT. THAT'S IT.

ALL I REALLY REMEMBER FROM WHEN I WAS LITTLE... WAS SOBBING AT A RELATIVE'S HOUSE.

DUNNO... I WAS LITTLE. I DON'T REMEMBER THEM. MY RELATIVES NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT THEM, EITHER.

WHAT WERE THEY LIKE, YOUR PARENTS?

I GOT OVER IT AT SOME POINT, THOUGH.

WELL...

I WAS AFRAID OF WATER FOR SOME REASON.

I WAS SUPER SCARED OF THE BATH. EVERY NIGHT, IT WAS THIS HUGE FIGHT.

LET'S GET UP EARLY TOMORROW AND FOLLOW THE TRACES OF THE FLOOD.

ANY-WAY...

I WAS FREAKED, TOO, YOU KNOW!! I MEAN, PEOPLE WERE SWEPT AWAY RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!

BUT TO BE HONEST, THAT FLOOD TODAY HAD MY LEGS SHAKING.

BUT IT'S BENT SO ABNORMALLY.

I GUESS BECAUSE OF THE FLOOD YESTERDAY.

IT IS A WEIRD SIGHT, THOUGH.

LOOK... ALL THE GRASS IS BENT IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

ROAR

HM?!

YEAH, GOOD IDEA.

PHEW, I'M TIRED. HOW ABOUT WE REST A MINUTE?

ROAR

UP-STREAM!!

WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?

ROAAR

IT KEEPS GETTING LOUDER !!

HEY, WHAT'S THAT SOUND ?

ROAAAR

AH!

ROAR

GET TO HIGH GROUND!

FLASH FLOOD!!

ROAAARR

AH! LOOK!

FIRST YESTERDAY AND NOW TODAY?

BUT, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!

HEEEEELP!

HEEEEELP!

ROAAAR

HELP MEEEEEE!

HEEEEELP!

ROAR

ALL THESE PEOPLE AND HOUSES IN THE WATER AGAIN!!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

ROAR

ROAR

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!

IT'S THE EXACT SAME AS YESTER-DAY.

...ME TOO...

H-HEY, MASAKI... I'VE SEEN THAT GIRL BEFORE.

ROAR

I'M GOING TO RECORD IT.

ANYWAY...

ROAR

ROAR

ROAR

IT'S GONE ...

IT...

WEIRD. IT'S JUST STATIC.

HUH?

LET'S LOOK AT THE VIDEO.

BUT, LIKE, HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO KEEP WALKING ANYWAY?

MAYBE... WE SAW A VISION OR SOMETHING.

LOOK AT THAT.

AH!

A HOUSE! WE'RE SAVED!!

EXCUSE MEEEE!

...WE SAW THE *SAME PEOPLE* SWEPT PAST US BOTH TIMES.

AND... UNLESS WE'RE REMEMBERING WRONG...

YOU BOYS SAW THE FLOOD THEN?

YES. TWO TIMES!!

FWOO.

SO WE MIGHT HAVE SEEN A VISION.

THIS ISN'T RATIONALLY POSSIBLE.

WHAT YOU SAW WAS AN ILLUSION.

YUP.

ALL THIS WATER RACED DOWN THE MOUNTAIN AND SWEPT THE VILLAGE DOWNSTREAM AWAY.

THIRTY YEARS AGO... THE DAM UPSTREAM OF HERE BROKE.

FROM TIME TO TIME, THE GHOST OF A FLOOD APPEARS IN THIS RIVER BASIN.

AND THE MAJORITY OF THOSE WASHED AWAY IN THIS MUDDY STREAM WERE NEVER FOUND.

THE VILLAGE WAS ESSENTIALLY DESTROYED, AND JUST A HANDFUL OF VILLAGERS SURVIVED.

LIVED THROUGH IT?

...

MAYBE IT'S THE PEOPLE WASHED AWAY IN THE FLOOD WHO PRODUCE THE ILLUSION.

OR MAYBE IT'S THE PRAYERS OF US WHO LIVED THROUGH IT THAT CALL THE GHOST...

WASN'T TOO LONG AFTER THAT...

...THAT THE PHANTOM FLOOD STARTED SHOWING UP.

BUT I GOT SEPARATED FROM MY WIFE SOMEWHERE IN THERE. THAT WAS THE LAST I SAW OF HER.

I WAS SWALLOWED UP BY THE WATER, TOO. I HELD ON TO MY BABY SON FOR DEAR LIFE, THOUGH, AND MANAGED TO GET TO THE SHORE.

I'M ONE OF THE SURVIVORS.

...THAT'S RIGHT.

I COULD SEE MY WIFE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT.

THE ILLUSION THAT STARTED APPEARING AFTER THAT IS A RE-CREATION OF THE FLOOD.

HRRR HRRR

IT'S NOT WORKING! THEY JUST GO RIGHT THROUGH THE ROPE!!

HONEY, HELP ME!

THOSE OF US VILLAGERS WHO WERE LEFT, WE TRIED TO RESCUE THE FOLKS BEING WASHED AWAY INSIDE THE ILLUSION OF THE FLOOD.

BUT NO MATTER WHAT WE TRIED, IT WAS NO USE. BECAUSE THEY WERE GHOSTS.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO STAYED.

BEFORE I KNEW IT, 30 YEARS HAD PASSED.

I'VE SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE SINCE TRYING TO RESCUE MY WIFE.

MY SON WAS AFRAID OF WATER AFTER THAT. I SENT HIM OFF TO LIVE WITH RELATIVES.

ONE DAY, SHE'S GOING TO GRAB ON TO THAT NET. SHE'LL ESCAPE THE ILLUSION AND COME BACK TO ME!!

BUT I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES!!

ALMOST LIKE A VIDEOTAPE GETTING WORN OUT. THE ILLUSION'S DETERIORATING!

OVER THESE LAST 30 YEARS, THE PHANTOM FLOOD'S GOTTEN HAZIER BIT BY BIT.

AND...

BUT...I'M OLD NOW. I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT...

...

IF I DON'T HURRY, IT'LL BE TOO LATE.

UM.

BUT THERE IS A CHANCE! IT'S COME UNUSUALLY OFTEN LATELY.

NO IDEA WHERE HE IS OR WHAT HE'S DOING.

I'M ASHAMED TO SAY I'M NOT IN TOUCH WITH MY SON.

THE SON YOU SAY YOU LEFT WITH RELATIVES...

WHERE IS HE NOW?

HM?!

...? WHY ARE YOU ASKING?

YOUR SON'S NAME... WHAT WAS IT?

OH. UM...

I DISCOVERED THE ILLUSION GENERATES A STRONG MAGNETIC FIELD WHEN IT APPEARS!!

I BUILT THIS MAG-NETIC FIELD DETEC-TOR!!

BOWWW

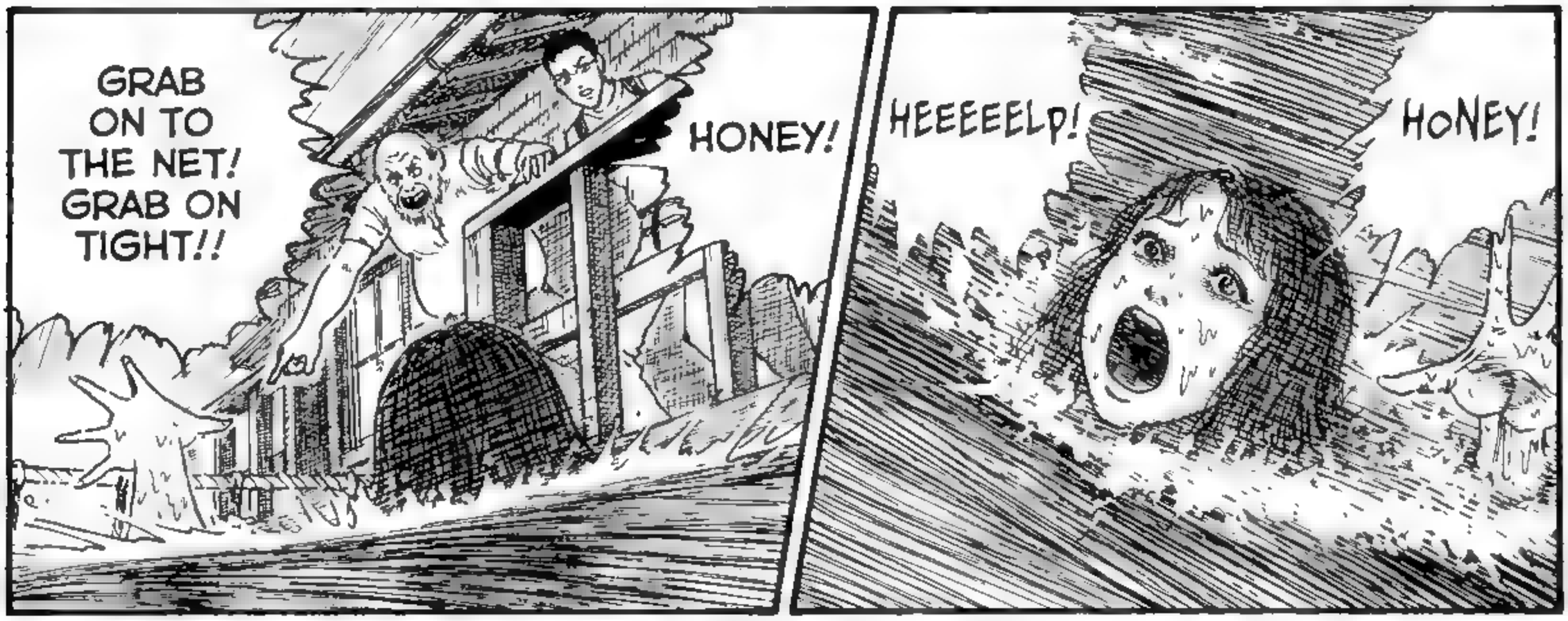
ROAR

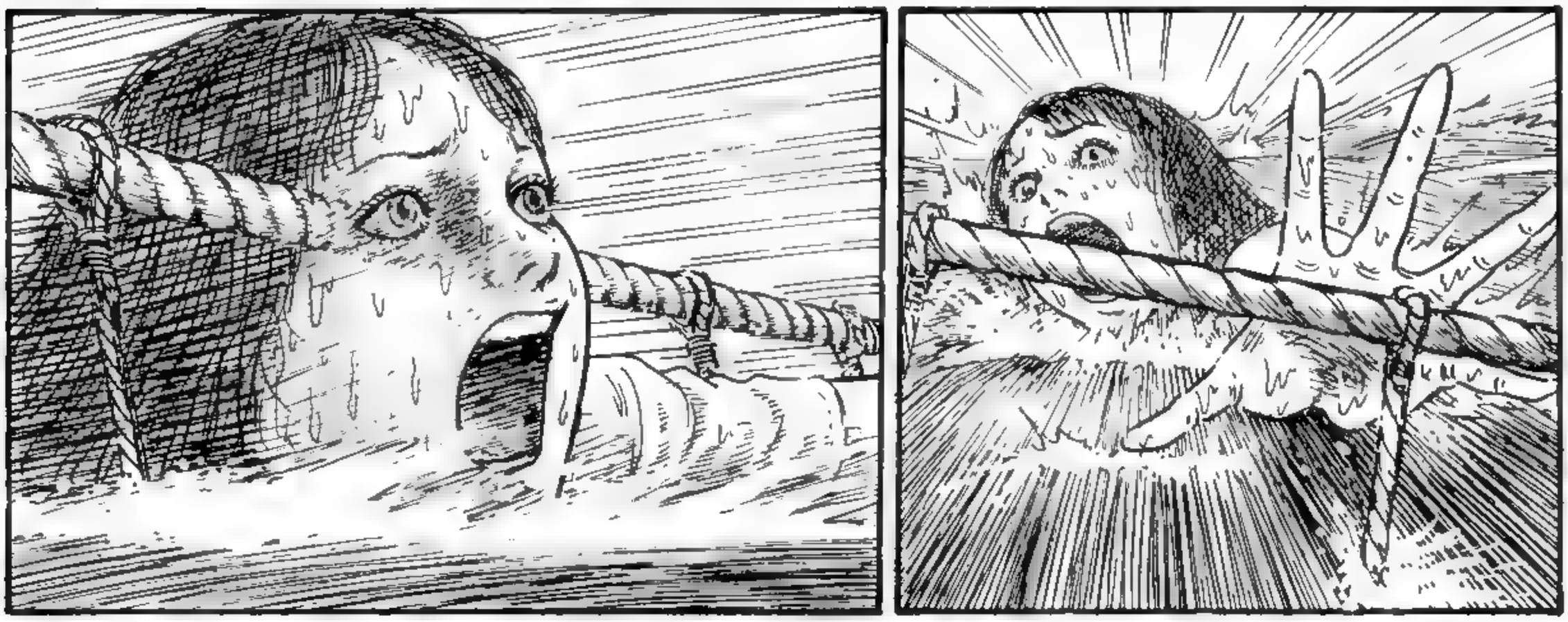
HELP MEEEE!

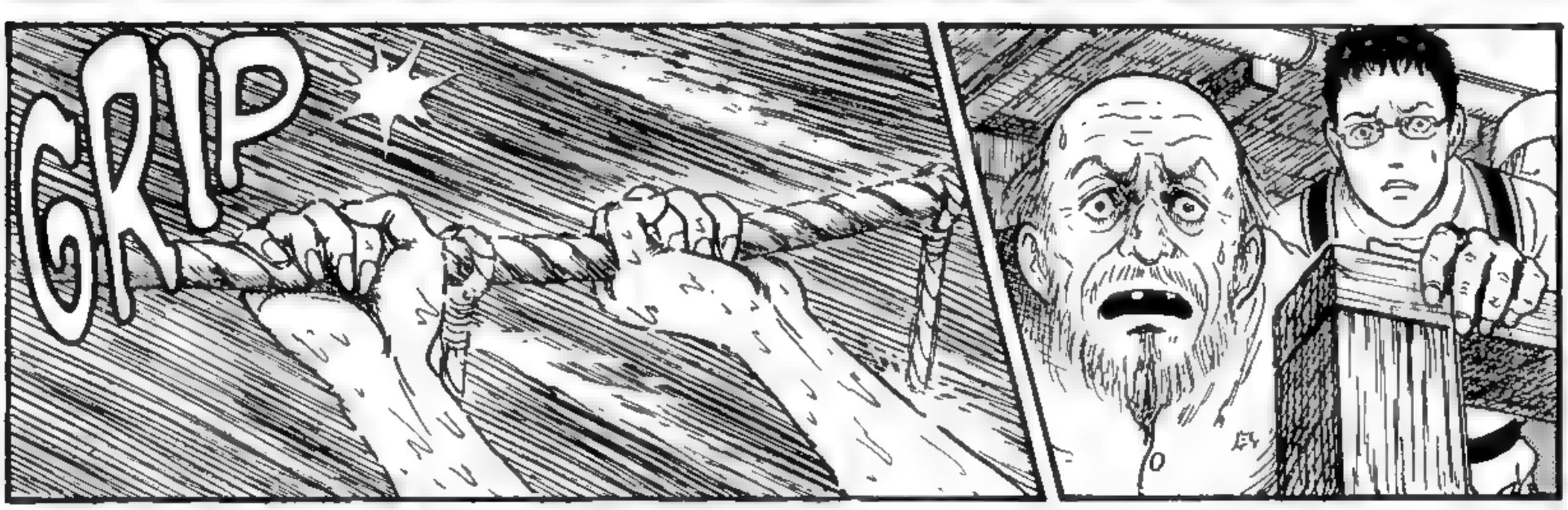
HEEEELP!

GRAB ON TO THE NET!!

ROAR


GRAB ON TO THE NET! GRAB ON TIGHT!!
HONEY!
HEEEEEELP!
HONEY!




GRIP

G-
GOOD!!

!!

JUST
LIKE
THAT!!

THAT'S
IT!!

FOLLOW
THE
ROPE
TO ME!!

SLOWLY!!
SLOWLY'S
OKAY!

FIGHT!!
HOLD ON
JUST A
LITTLE
LONGER!

GRAB MY HAND!!

THAT'S IT! KEEP GOING!!

YOU CAN DO IT!

YOU CAN DO IT!

Y—

COME ON!!

AH!

GOODBYE.

I CAN'T...

ROAR

HONEY !!

SPLASH

AH!

WAIT! I'M COMING FOR YOU!

ROAR

ROAR

ROAAR

RO AR

ROAR

ROAR

STILL...

IT MIGHT JUST BE THAT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF CHASING A GHOST, THAT OLD MAN BECAME MORE AND MORE LIKE A PHANTOM HIMSELF.

SWALLOWED UP BY A PHANTOM FLOOD. IS THAT EVEN A THING THAT HAPPENS?

BUT THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING FOR SURE NOW.

THAT COUPLE... I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY PARENTS.

EARTHBOUND
地縛者
じばくしゃ

A STRANGE SIGHT BEGAN APPEARING ALL OVER JAPAN.

A PERFOR-MANCE?

IN ALL KINDS OF PLACES...

... ALWAYS IN THE SAME POSITION.

BEFORE ANYONE KNEW IT, THEY WERE JUST THERE.

HEY, YOU!!

DAY AND NIGHT...

LEAVE ME ALONE, PLEASE...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR?!

?!

COME ON!!

HURRY UP AND GO HOME!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

I'LL ARREST YOU FOR INTERFER-ING WITH A PUBLIC SERVANT!

Y-YOU... SO YOU'RE RESISTING AN OFFICER THEN?

HNNNGH!

YOU'RE COMING TO THE STATION!!

KZAK

...GRADUALLY STARTED TO THINK IT WAS CREEPY.

EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY AT FIRST...

...THEY RETURNED SOON ENOUGH.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THEY WERE DRAGGED AWAY...

BUT THEY WERE DEFINITELY ALIVE.

SOME PEOPLE SUSPECTED THEY WERE GHOSTS.

HONEY!!

NOT TO MENTION, IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE A NORMAL PERSON COULD HOLD THE SAME POSITION FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

IT WAS A COMPLETE MYSTERY AS TO WHY THEY WERE DOING THIS.

PEOPLE CALLED THEM "EARTH-BOUND."

IT WAS AS THOUGH THEY WERE TIED TO THOSE PLACES.

OUR BOY'S STILL SO YOUNG!!

HONEY!! WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?!

PLEASE PULL YOUR-SELF TOGETH-ER!

THE RUMOR STARTED TO SPREAD THAT THE "BOUND" WAS CONTAGIOUS.

STRANGELY, THE EARTHBOUND GRADUALLY GREW IN NUMBER THROUGHOUT JAPAN.

WHISPER
WHISPER
YUJI!!
MISTER? WHAT ARE YOU DOING, STANDING LIKE THAT?
NOW, COME!
I TOLD YOU TO SAY AWAY FROM HIM!!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF YOU CATCH IT?!

HELLO.

WE WANT TO OFFER SUPPORT TO PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM SYMPTOMS LIKE YOURS.

MY NAME IS ASANO. I VOLUNTEER WITH THE BLUE SKY SOCIETY.

PLEASE TELL ME IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR FOOD AND THAT SORT OF THING?

BUT WE'LL HELP MAKE IT A LITTLE BETTER FOR YOU. WE CAN TALK THINGS THROUGH WITH YOU.

OF COURSE, WE DON'T THINK WE CAN CURE THE BOUND.

I'LL JUST LEAVE THIS FOOD AND WATER HERE.

WELL THEN, I'LL COME AGAIN ANOTHER DAY.

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO...

LEAVE ME ALONE ...

...

I SEE.

WHISPER WHISPER

UNH!
UNH
UNH
UNH.

COME BACK HOME.

UNH UNH... MINORU... I'M BEGGING YOU.

UNH
UNH
UNH
UNH
UNH.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?

UM, I'M A VOLUNTEER WITH THE BLUE SKY SOCIETY.

YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED THE FOOD I BROUGHT FOR YOU. IF YOU DON'T EAT, YOU'LL DIE.

THE EARTH-BOUND ARE BOUND BY THE SELF. WE BELIEVE IT'S A PSY-CHOLOGICAL ISSUE.

CATCH IT... WE DON'T BELIEVE THOSE RUMORS.

AND YOU'LL CATCH IT IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE. PLEASE GO AWAY.

ALL THE DOCTORS AND POLITICIANS HAVE BASICALLY THROWN IN THE TOWEL, SO WHAT CAN A VOLUNTEER LIKE YOU DO?

WHICH IS WHY WE TRY TO TALK TO THEM AND FIND A WAY IN.

BUT THE BOUND IS CLEARLY HAPPENING BECAUSE OF THE EARTHBOUND THEMSELVES.

MY BOY'S BEEN LIKE THIS A WHOLE WEEK.

DOES *THIS* HAPPEN BECAUSE OF A PSYCHO-LOGICAL ISSUE?!

...

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY...

TALK? NO...

PLEASE, TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING!

IT'S MINORU, ISN'T IT? I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU ALL THE SUPPORT I CAN!

THE DOG?

I THINK MAYBE HE ORIGINALLY CAME HERE BECAUSE HE WAS REMEMBERING THE DOG.

WHY WOULD SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN ...?

AND I KNOW THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WITH THE SAME SYMPTOMS ...

BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. WHY NOW...

HERE LIES PONTA

HE JUST ADORED THE DOG, SO IT WAS A REAL SHOCK FOR HIM WHEN PONTA DIED.

YES. THIS IS WHERE WE BURIED MINORU'S PET DOG PONTA WHEN HE WAS A BOY.

HERE LIES PONTA

BUT...I DO FEEL LIKE THE DOG IS CONNECTED SOMEHOW.

IT'S JUST... HE'S SUCH A KIND BOY, MINORU IS...

THAT'S A VERY INTEREST-ING ACCOUNT.

I SEE...

NPO BLUE SKY SOCIETY

THE BOY WAS BOUND IN THE PLACE WHERE HIS PET DOG WAS BURIED. WHICH MEANS...

THAT'S RIGHT, CHIEF.

BUT FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME...

SO FAR, THE REASON THE EARTHBOUND ARE FIXED TO ANY PARTICULAR SPOT'S BEEN A TOTAL MYSTERY.

OKAY!

GOT IT. YOU KEEP WORKING WITH THAT BOY.

MAKES SENSE.

MAYBE THE EARTHBOUND ARE EACH STUCK SOMEWHERE THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE A STRONG ATTACHMENT TO?

OKAY.

AND IT'S GOOD TO WORK HARD, BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO MUCH, OKAY?

EVEN COMPARED WITH OTHERS IN THE GROUP. LIKE... YOU'RE ALMOST FANATIC ABOUT IT...

YOU KNOW, ASANO, YOU'RE REALLY PASSION-ATE ABOUT THIS WORK.

...I HAVE A TON OF STUFF TO DO.

...I'M ACTUALLY MOVING HOUSE SOON, SO...

OH. I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, BUT...

ANYWAY, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS NOW? WE COULD GET DINNER OR SOMETHING.

I'LL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH THE BLUE SKY SOCIETY LIKE ALWAYS. DON'T WORRY.

AND EVEN THOUGH I'M MOVING, I'M NOT GOING FAR.

WHY AGAIN?

WHAT? YOU'RE MOVING AGAIN? DIDN'T YOU JUST MOVE TO THE PLACE YOU ARE NOW LAST YEAR?

THINGS HAPPEN ...

YES, WELL...

KREE

CHAK CHAK

TAK TAK

AH!!

...ARE YOU HERE?

W-WHY...

THE ENTRANCE HAS AN AUTOMATIC LOCK, AND THIS IS THE SECOND FLOOR, SO I THOUGHT I'D BE SAFE.

YOU CAME IN THROUGH THE BALCONY, RIGHT?

WH-WHO ARE YOU?!

AH!

WHY?!

WHY WOULD YOU BE BOUND TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?!

THIS IS MY APARTMENT!! DO YOU GET THAT?!

WHY ARE YOU IN HERE?!

YOU *ARE* ASANO, AREN'T YOU... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

A-ASANO?!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

CHIEF... CHIEF, IS THAT YOU?!

I-I DIDN'T KNOW... I WAS THERE, AND THEN I WAS JUST HERE.

REALLY. YOU CAME HERE WITHOUT KNOWING THAT?!

WHAT?

THIS IS MY APARTMENT!!

YOUR APART-MENT? REALLY?

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!!

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME, ASANO.

THIS IS NO JOKE!

ARE YOU MESSING WITH ME?!

TH-THIS IS A BAD JOKE!!

WHAT IS GOING ON...?

WH—

FWMP

THESE ARE EARTHBOUND SYMPTOMS. SO I'M FINALLY BOUND, TOO.

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS HERE. AND I CAN'T MOVE!

LIKE YOU LIVED HERE BEFORE OR SOMETHING.

CHIEF, DO YOU HAVE ANY EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO THIS APARTMENT?!

R-RIGHT!!

OH!!

YOU HAVEN'T ?

N-NO... I DON'T KNOW...THIS APARTMENT... I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE!!

SO, LIKE, MAYBE PEOPLE ARE BOUND TO PLACES THEY HAVE AN ATTACHMENT TO...

LISTEN. WE TALKED ABOUT IT TODAY, DIDN'T WE? THE BOY BOUND TO HIS DOG'S GRAVE.

SORRY. MAKING A CONFESSION AT A TIME LIKE THIS... WHAT A SAD FARCE.

NOT THE APART-MENT, BUT...

...I HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU!

B-BUT... RIGHT... I...

WHAT?

...

UNNNNH! MM...

STOP!

UNNNNNH ...

ST- STOP...

HAAH HAAH.

I HAVE THE SAME DREAM ALL THE TIME...

A BAD DREAM ...

I WAS HAVING A DREAM.

I'M SORRY. I MUST HAVE SCARED YOU.

A- ASANO ...

WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR?

UNH! UNH UNH UNH...

I'M SORRY. YOU'RE SUFFERING LIKE THIS, AND HERE I AM SLEEPING. I'LL BE HERE IN THIS APARTMENT TO GIVE YOU ALL THE SUPPORT YOU NEED.

OH. IT'S NOTHING.

...

CHIEF...

THANKS... ASANO. BUT...

IF YOU'RE HAVING PROBLEMS, YOU CAN TALK TO ME, YOU KNOW.

...A ROBBER BROKE IN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...

...AND ASSAULTED ME!

...IN ANOTHER APARTMENT ...

I'LL TELL YOU, THEN. BUT ONLY YOU.

RIGHT...

ACTUALLY, I...A FEW YEARS AGO...

THAT NIGHT...

IT HAUNTS ME EVEN NOW!

AAAAH!!

UNH... UNH UNH...

AND MAYBE THE REASON I STARTED VOLUNTEERING... WAS TO DISTRACT MYSELF.

I'M SORRY. TELLING YOU ALL THIS...

THAT'S WHEN I STARTED MOVING FROM APARTMENT TO APARTMENT.

I FELT LIKE IF I STAYED IN ONE PLACE, MY ATTACKER WOULD COME AGAIN.

MARCH
MARCH
MARCH

NOW! PLEASE COME ALONG.

IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT ALL OF YOU WILL BE FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM THE AREA AND PUT INTO QUARANTINE.

HELLO? WE'RE FROM THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL.

W-WHAT ON EARTH...

NGH. HNNNGH.

?!

HNGH!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS. I MEAN, A HUMAN BEING STIFFENING UP LIKE THIS...

HEY! THIS ONE'S THE SAME!

HE'S NOT MOVING AN INCH. HE'S LIKE STONE.

SNAP

HEY!! STAY WITH US!!

HEY!!

UNNNNH ...

UNNH.

AAAH!

BAM

BAM

...TO SHOW THE SIGNS.

AND THEN MINORU ALSO START-ED...

THE CAUSE WAS UN-KNOWN.

AROUND THIS TIME, THE BOUND ALL OVER JAPAN BEGAN TO GRADUALLY SOLIDIFY.

MINORU!! YOU HAVE TO HURRY AND LET GO!!

KEEP MASSAGING HIS LIMBS!

MINORU! MINORU! PLEASE, DON'T STIFFEN UP!!

YOU'LL GET INFECT-ED.

SH-SHUT UP... DON'T TOUCH ME...

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR DOG PONTA.

HERE LIES PONTA

I DON'T CARE! LISTEN TO ME!!

BUT HE WOULDN'T WANT THIS FOR YOU!!

FOR HIS SAKE AS WELL, YOU HAVE TO SET YOURSELF FREE!!

AS MUCH AS YOU LOVE PONTA, THAT'S HOW MUCH HE MUST BE PRAYING FOR YOUR HAPPINESS!!

UNH...

UNH UNH...

LET GO!!

PLEASE...

!!

YOU'RE WRONG ...

YOU'RE WRONG!

WAAA

THERE'S NO WAY PONTA WOULD LET ME BE FREE!!

THERE'S NO WAY PONTA LOVED ME!

?!

I KILLED PONTA!!

...I KILLED HIM!

BECAUSE ...

PONTA... I KILLED HIM.

PONTA BIT ME.

HERE LIES PONTA

FORGIVE ME!! FORGIVE ME!!

SO...I WRAPPED HIM UP IN A FUTON TO PUNISH HIM...AND THEN...

IT'S NOT AN EMOTIONAL ATTACH-MENT?

SO THE EARTH-BOUND...

MINORU ...

WAAA-AAAAH!

IS A GUILTY CONSCIENCE THE CAUSE?!

HNNNNGH ...

SEEKING THE DRIVER IN A HIT-AND-RUN June 17, 2001 there was a hit-and-run accident in this location. Any witnesses are asked to please

SEEKING THE DRIVER IN A HIT-AND-RUN June 17, 2001 there was a hit-and-run accident in this location. Any witnesses

ATM

DEPOSIT

I QUESTIONED THE MANAGER OF THIS BUILDING JUST NOW...

...AND HE FINALLY TOLD ME.

THE MEDIA'S ALSO STARTING TO TALK ABOUT IT.

CHIEF... IT SEEMS THAT THE BOUND IS CAUSED BY A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

I GUESS THEY STILL HAVEN'T CAUGHT HIM.

THE PERPETRATOR WAS A SERIAL RAPIST.

A THIEF BROKE IN DURING THE NIGHT. I GUESS SHE FOUGHT BACK, SO HE KILLED HER.

THIS APARTMENT... HE SAID A WOMAN WAS KILLED HERE A FEW YEARS AGO.

CHIEF...

IT'S NOT TRUE, RIGHT?! TELL ME YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!

MY ATTACKER WAS WEARING A MASK, SO I DIDN'T SEE HIS FACE...

THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE MAN WHO ASSAULTED ME, EITHER. IT HAPPENED IN THE SAME TIME PERIOD, SO IT WAS PROBABLY THE SAME GUY.

...

PLEASE TELL ME THERE IS!

THE REASON YOU'RE BOUND HERE... THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, RIGHT?!

YOU ...

...

IT CAN'T BE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU...

STILL GOOD!

KEEP GOING!

CRACK

...AND WALKED AWAY FROM THAT APARTMENT.

I LEFT THE CHIEF ON HIS OWN...

I'M STILL MOVING FROM PLACE TO PLACE.

THE NUMBER OF EARTHBOUND CONTINUES TO INCREASE.

I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT WILL END.

EARTHBOUND / END

DEATH ROW DOORBELL

死刑囚の呼鈴

ZO-DDDDDR

ZO-DDDDDR

MY NAME... IS FURU-HASHI...

EXCUSE THE LATE HOUR..

HELLO? KOWA RESI-DENCE.

...

CHAK

I CAN STOP BY ANY TIME...

I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOUR FAMILY...

CHAK

I'LL VISIT... I'LL COME NOW...

DON'T!! YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME OVER!!

NORIKO, WE CAN'T LET HIM IN THE HOUSE.

HE'S COMING AGAIN!!

BROTHER... IT'S HIM...

DI ZO DO ZO

DI ZO DO ZO

DING DONG

DING DONG
DING DONG

EVERYTHING'S LOCKED. HE'S DEFINITELY NOT GETTING IN THIS TIME!!

DING DONG

NORIKO, YOU LOCKED THE DOOR, RIGHT?!

AH!

FORGIVE ME. I BEG YOU...

PLEASE... PLEASE...

Y-YOU... HOW DID YOU...?

I'M ON MY HANDS AND KNEES...

PLEASE ...

PLEASE ...

PLEASE...

PLEASE, I...

FWWM

FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART... I REGRET IT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

PLEASE... FORGIVE ME...

G-GET OUT!!

AAAAAAH!

I-I HATE THIS!

WE'RE JUST SEEING A VISION!!

IT'S OKAY, NORIKO!! THIS— IT'S A VISION!

I'M SCARED!

MOM!!

MOM!

MOM, HELP. I'M...I'M SO SCARED.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A FUN DAY OUT ON A FAMILY DRIVE.

...OUR HAPPY FAMILY LIFE.

ONE DAY LAST SUMMER, A GANG MERCILESSLY DESTROYED ...

POTATO CHIPS

VRRRRRR

KRR KRR KRR

WHD WHD WHD

KRR KRR KRR KRR KRR

HONEY ...

BEE BEEEP

KRR KRR KRR

AAAAAH!

SMASH!

I MANAGED TO GET AWAY SOMEHOW AND RAN TO A NEARBY HOUSE FOR HELP.

SOME-ONE, HELP!!

I ALMOST THROW UP JUST REMEMBERING WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT!!

THOSE MONSTERS WERE SOON ARRESTED, BUT...

MY MOTHER'S INJURIES WERE ESPECIALLY SERIOUS; SHE STILL HASN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS.

THEY BRUTALLY STOLE THE LIVES OF MY FATHER AND LITTLE BROTHER AND LEFT MY MOTHER AND OLDER BROTHER CRITICALLY INJURED!!

...EVEN HAD A FAINT SMILE ON HIS FACE!!

THE RING-LEADER, A 20-YEAR-OLD MAN...

...NONE OF THEM SHOWED EVEN A HINT OF REMORSE AT THE TRIAL.

AT THE FIRST TRIAL, THE LEADER WAS GIVEN THE DEATH SENTENCE.

HIS LAWYER IMME-DIATELY APPEALED TO A HIGHER COURT.

THAT BASTARD. I'LL KILL HIM. I'LL KILL HIM...

HNNNNGH ...

Dear Kowa family,
I apologize for the sudden deaths of your relatives. I really am sorry. I don't know how I could fix it. I want to tell you I apologize from the bottom of my heart.

THAT VERY RINGLEADER, FURUHASHI, STARTED SENDING US LETTERS REGULARLY AFTER THAT.

ALL OF THEM SPELLED OUT HIS APOLOGIES AT LENGTH.

SOON, THE LETTERS WERE COMING ALMOST EVERY DAY.

THEY ALWAYS SAID HE WANTED US TO FORGIVE HIM AND THAT HE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE IN PERSON, OVER AND OVER.

I CAN'T STAND THIS!!

HE'S JUST TRYING TO PRETEND HE'S SORRY SO HE CAN AVOID THE DEATH PENALTY!!

THE LETTERS STOPPED COMING AFTER THAT.

BUT THE LAST LETTER HE SENT BEFORE THE PRISON OFFICIALS STEPPED IN...

WHEN EXACTLY ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?!

HELLO?! IS THIS X JAIL?! I'M PRETTY SURE I ASKED YOU THE OTHER DAY TO STOP THESE LETTERS.

HOW-EVER ...

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!!

RRRRR-I-P

...SAID, "I WANT TO APOLOGIZE IN PERSON..."

..."WHAT DAY IS GOOD FOR YOU?"

"I'LL COME TO YOU"...

"I'LL CALL YOU SOON"...

... THINGS LIKE THAT.

...

...
HELLO?

KOWA RESI-DENCE.

HELLO ?

PEEEEN-ZO

PEEEEN-ZO

QUIT PRANK CALLING US!!

WHO IS THIS?!

I'D LOVE TO APOL-OGIZE IN PERSON...

WHEN IS A GOOD DAY FOR YOU?

MY NAME IS...FURU-HASHI...

...
HELLO
...

WHAT?!

IT'S HIM. IT'S THAT MAN!!

WHAT'S WRONG, NORIKO?

STOP IT!!

CHAK

I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
...

MAY I COME OVER NOW?

W-
WHAT?

HE SAID HE'S COMING TO APOLO-GIZE NOW.

BUT...BUT IT WAS HIS VOICE.

HE'S IN JAIL. THERE'S NO WAY HE'D BE CALLING US!!

WHAT?! THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS...

DI-ZO DOZO

DI-ZO DOZO

DING DONG

DING DONG

DING DONG

IT CAN'T BE...

IT...

AH!

BUT WE CONFIRMED THAT HE'S STILL IN JAIL.

ARE YOU SURE IT WASN'T JUST SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE HIM?

BUT BY THE TIME THE POLICE RUSHED OVER, FURUHASHI WAS ALREADY GONE.

HE WAS DEFINITELY HERE!!

NORIKO! CALL 911! HURRY!!

IT'S HIM!! HE'S HERE!!

BUT FURUHASHI WAS INDEED STILL IN JAIL.

PLEASE CHECK WITH THE JAIL AGAIN!!

TH-THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!!

DING DONG

!

SO THEN WHO ON EARTH—

WHAT IS GOING ON...

...PLEASE FORGIVE ME. I BEG YOU...

KOWA FAMILY...

THE MAN CAME...

...THE NEXT NIGHT, AND AGAIN THE NIGHT AFTER THAT.

LOOK!!

B-BROTHER!

HE'S PLAYING THIS SNEAKY TRICK TO TRY AND SAVE HIS BROTHER!!

OR MAYBE... MAYBE HE HAS A TWIN.

WHAT THE HELL *IS* HE...

PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

KOWA FAMILY ...

AH!

HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?!

Y- YOU!

HE'S GONE...

HE CAME INSIDE AND DISAPPEARED EVERY NIGHT AFTER THAT.

PLEASE ...

PLEASE ...

FWWMMMMM

AH?!

I'M SCARED.

UNH UNH UNH, MOM...

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO US...

HE'S SO AFRAID OF THE DEATH PENALTY THAT HE'S SENDING A PART OF HIMSELF TO US.

HIS FINAL STRUG-GLE.

IT MIGHT BE A VISION CREATED BY FURU-HASHI.

NORIKO. THAT...

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TOMORROW NIGHT.

HE CAN KEEP COMING UNTIL I'M DONE WITH HIM.

IF WE'RE UP AGAINST A PHANTOM, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

HEH! FINE THEN.

THEN STAY STILL LIKE THAT...

THAT SO?

FORGIVE ME. I BEG YOU...

PLEASE... PLEASE.

HEH. YOU WANT TO BE FORGIVEN THAT BADLY?

HNNNNGH!

HNGH!

AH !!

SHAP WHA

PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

FORGIVE ME...

PAPA

UNH...

HAAH HAAH!

FWWWMMMM

KRKL KRKL KRKL KRKL KRKL

FWWMMMM.

WHAP

WHAP

AND MY BROTHER WOULD BEAT HIM DOWN LIKE A MAN POSSESSED.

DING DONG

DING DONG

FURUHASHI RANG THE DOORBELL EVERY NIGHT.

DING DONG

THEN, THE NEXT NIGHT, HE WOULD RING THE BELL AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

FWWMMMM

EACH TIME, FURUHASHI WOULD EVAPORATE.

THAT WAS THE FIRST OF MANY NIGHTS WHERE I THOUGHT I WOULD LOSE MY MIND.

YAH HA HA HA HA HA!

HEE HA HA HA HA!

WHAP

WHAP

SHUT UP!!

PLEASE... LET IT GO ALREADY.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

THD

PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

STAY AWAY FROM US!!

YOU—I FORGIVE YOU ALREADY!! I FORGIVE YOU, SO DON'T COME BACK EVER AGAIN!!

THUD

BUT...IF YOU KEEP DOING THIS, WE'LL ONLY SUFFER—

WHAT-EVER! JUST SHUT UP!!

FORGIVE HIM?! NO MATTER HOW SORRY HE IS, HOW COULD WE EVER FORGIVE HIM, GIVEN WHAT HE'S DONE?!

I'LL SMASH HIM TO PIECES FOREVER!! THAT'S ALL!!

WHAP

EEAH HA HA HA!

HEE HEE HEE HEE!

BAH HA HA HA HA!

WHAP

WHAP

HEE!

HEE HEE! ...HEE! HEE!

HEE HEE HEE!

UNH UNH UNH!

MWAH HA!

WAAAAH!

WAAH!

UNH! UNH!

HEE!

UNH UNH UNH !

...

AAAAAAH!

DAMMIT!

DAMMIT !!

WAAAAH...

...MY BROTHER CONTINUED TO BEAT DOWN THE PHANTOM MAN, AND THEN...

FOR A FEW DAYS AFTER THAT...

SHOP

WHAP

DAMMIT ...

DAMMIT!

WAAAA-AAAAH!

HE KILLED HIM-SELF.

DING DONG

WHY...

WHY... WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO US?

PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

DON'T SHOW YOURSELF HERE AGAIN!!

I FORGIVE YOU, SO STAY AWAY FROM US FOREVER!!

I TOLD YOU I FORGIVE YOU, DIDN'T I?!

I BEG YOU, FORGIVE ME...

PLEASE, SOME-HOW, FROM THE BOT-TOM OF YOUR HEART, PLEASE...

I WILL VISIT YOU UNTIL I RECEIVE YOUR SINCERE FORGIVE-NESS...

STAY AWAY FROM ME!

AAAAAH!

SPLISH SPLISH

WHAP

WHAP

WHAP

...MY OWN HELL CONTIN-UED.

WHAP WHAP

THE PAIN-FULLY LONG TRIAL FINALLY ENDED.

BUT EVEN AFTER THE MAN'S DEATH PENALTY WAS CERTAIN...

THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE LEFT FOR ME TO DO.

WHAP

WHAP

BUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN HE WAS PUT TO DEATH? AFTER HE DIED...

...WOULD HE COME TO ME AS AN ACTUAL GHOST THEN? IF THAT HAPPENED, I...

BUT I WAS SUDDENLY ANXIOUS...

I WAS UP AGAINST THE GHOST OF A MAN WHO WAS STILL ALIVE.

HA... HA HA...

HE WAS FINALLY DEAD!!

ONE DAY, I LEARNED FROM THE NEWSPAPER THAT HIS EXECUTION HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT.

MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY EARLY ON.

THE HELLISH DAYS CONTIN-UED FOR A LONG TIME.

I WAITED WITHOUT MOVING FOR NIGHT TO COME.

TIC TIC TIC

I...

D-ZO DOZO

D-ZO DOZO

D-ZO DOZO

DING DONG DING DONG

I KNEW IT...HE CAME AGAIN TONIGHT.

I JUST KNEW HE WOULD KEEP COMING UNTIL I DIED.

KACHA

BUT... THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ANYONE.

HE NEVER SHOWED UP AGAIN.

DEATH ROW DOORBELL / END

THE MYSTERY OF THE HAUNTED HOUSE

おばけ屋敷(やしき)の謎(なぞ)

TING BANG

TING BANG

ONE DAY...

TING

BANG

...A CHINDON ADVERTISING BAND CAME THROUGH MY TOWN.

A TERRIFYING HAUNTED HOUSE ON THE EDGE OF TOWN!

HAUNTED

HAUN

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! A HAUNTED HOUSE HAS OPENED UP IN THIS TOWN!

HERE'S A FLYER.

BOYS, HOW ABOUT YOU COME TAKE A PEEK, TOO?

HAUNTED HOUSE

BUT ON THE EDGE OF TOWN WHERE, SATOSHI?

KOICHI, A HAUNTED HOUSE!

...

COME BY IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE IT.

IT'S SCARY FUN.

CLAMOR CLAMOR

HAUNTED HOUSE

COOL OFF IN THE SUMMER HEAT

HAUNTED HOUSE

HAUNTED HOUSE

OH! OVER THERE.

SO WHERE IS THIS HAUNTED HOUSE THEN?

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!!

THEY JUST HUNG A SIGN ON THE OLD PLACE.

HUH. ISN'T THAT THAT DESERTED HOUSE? IT'S BEEN HERE FOREVER.

DON'T DIRTY OUR TOWN WITH YOUR DISGUSTING TRADE!!

ADULTS 10,000 YEN
STUDENTS 9,000 YEN
CHILDREN 8,000 YEN

ADMISSION IS 10,000 YEN?! THAT'S A TOTAL RIP-OFF!!

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FIGHTING ABOUT SOMETHING.

...WE'LL LEAVE TOWN.

IF YOU'RE NOT, THEN NOT ONLY WILL I GIVE YOU YOUR MONEY BACK...

IF YOU THINK IT'S A SCAM, GO TAKE A LOOK. YOU'LL BE SCARED.

SIR, OUR HAUNTED HOUSE IS WORTH A 10,000 YEN PRICE TAG.

...

FINE!

A MAN'S WORD IS HIS BOND.

BUT IF I'M BORED, YOU'LL LEAVE TOWN, RIGHT?!

OKAY, YOU'RE ON. I'LL GO IN AND TEST IT OUT THEN.

ADULTS 10,000 YEN
STUDENTS 9,000 YEN
CHILDREN 8,000 YEN

EEAH!
LEAP
ENTRANCE
EXIT
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
OKAY, I'LL BE BACK.
AND THEN HE WENT INSIDE ALL BY HIMSELF.
ENTRANCE
EXIT
HOW WAS IT?
SIR.
WHAT ON EARTH...
W-WHAT WAS THAT...?
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG? PANICKING LIKE THAT...
WHAT'S WITH HIM...
EEAA-AAH!
EEE—
HA TED HOUSE
EXIT
TAK TAK
HEH HEH HEH ...

HAUNTED HOUSE

COOL OFF IN THE SUMMER HEAT

I HEARD THE PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN INSIDE PRACTICALLY LOST THEIR MINDS FROM FEAR.

WORD OF THE HAUNTED HOUSE SPREAD THROUGH TOWN IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

I GUESS IT'S REALLY SCARY.

PEOPLE WHO'VE GONE INSIDE HAVE COME OUT STRANGE, THINGS LIKE THAT.

WE'VE ACTUALLY HAD REPORTS FROM THE TOWNSPEOPLE.

...AT A HAUNTED HOUSE?

WELL, WELL. WHAT BUSINESS DO THE POLICE HAVE...

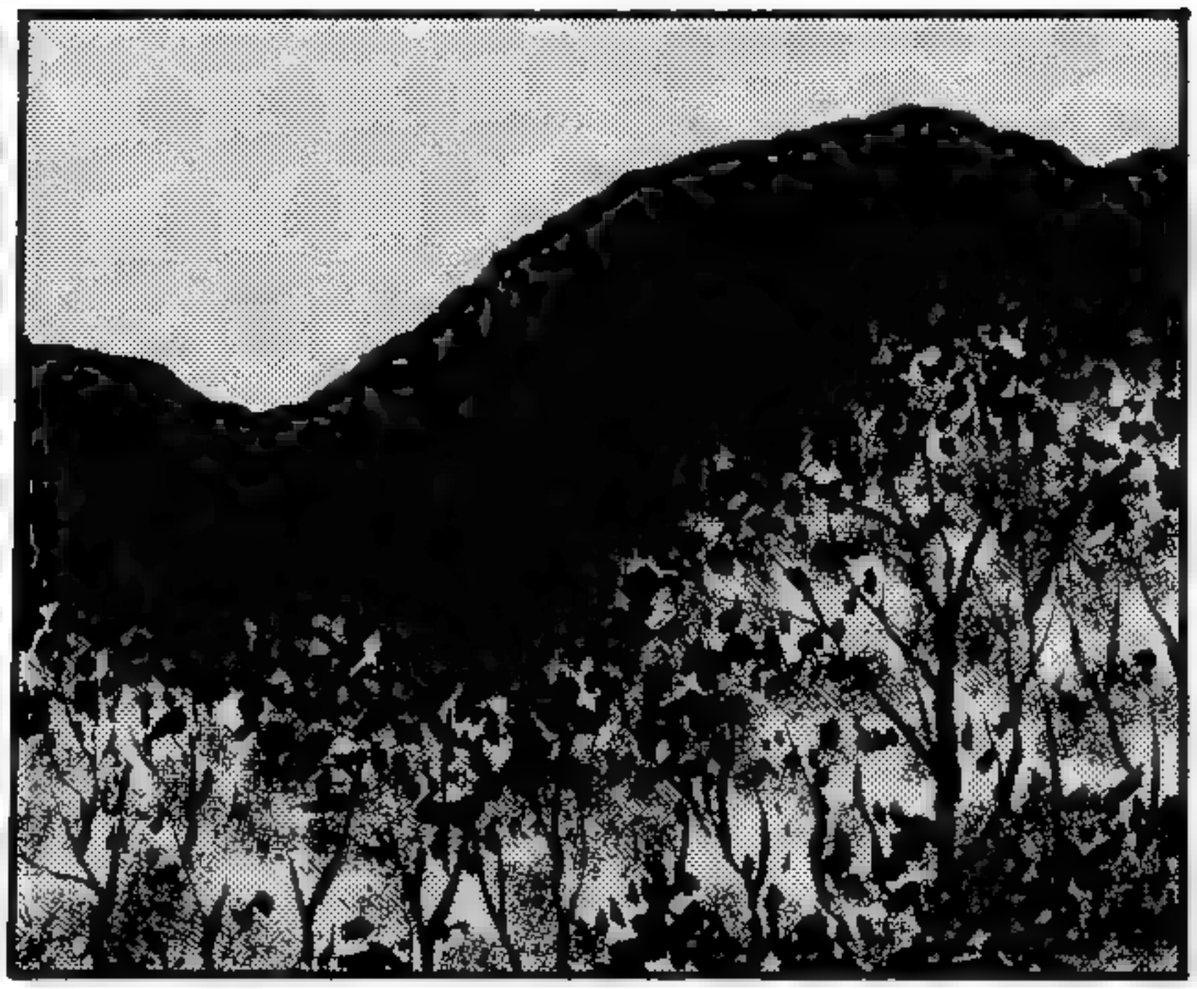
ALL RIGHT THEN. I'LL JUST TAKE A LOOK AROUND.

HAUNTED HOUSE

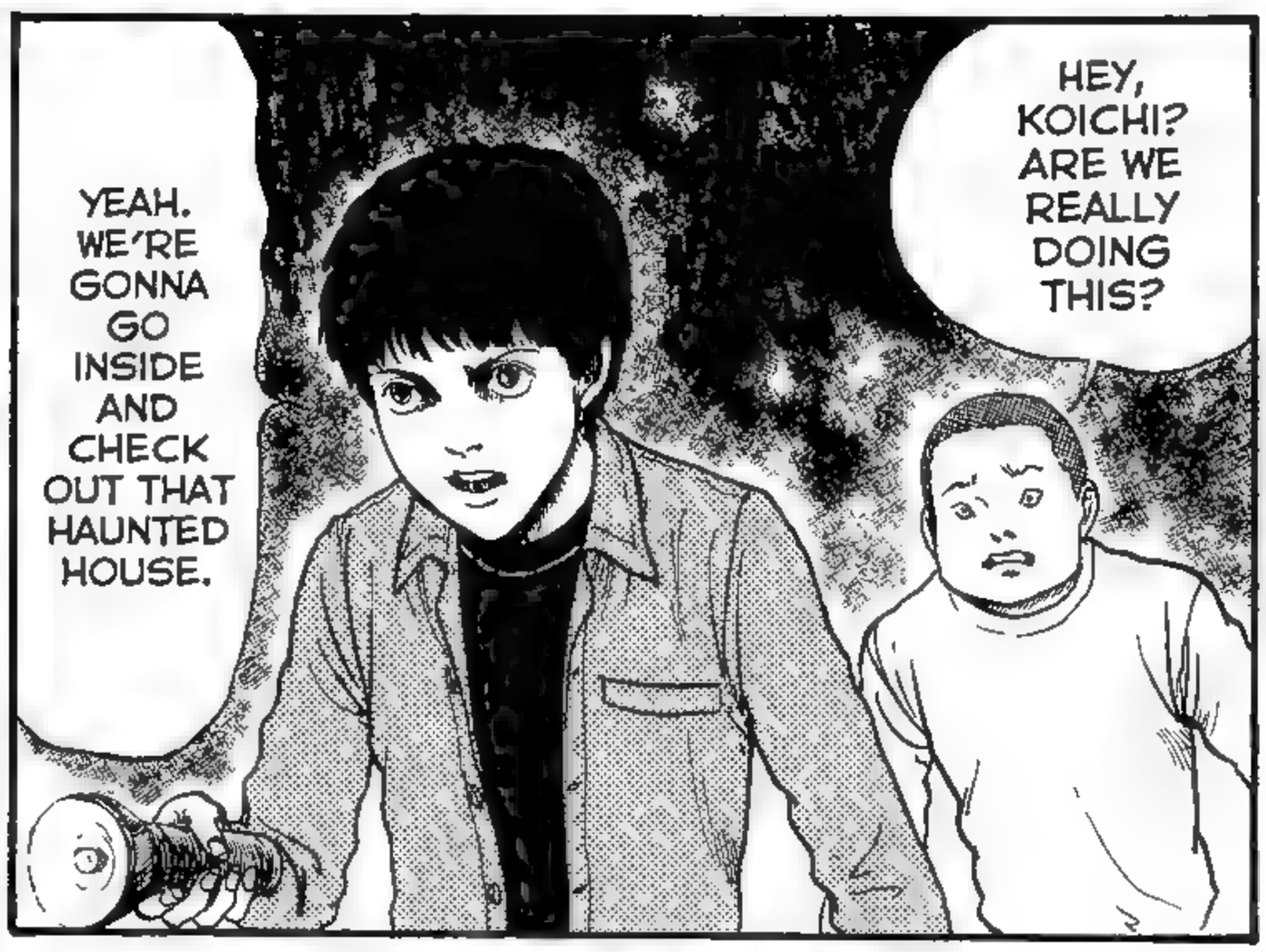
COOL OFF IN THE SUMMER HEAT

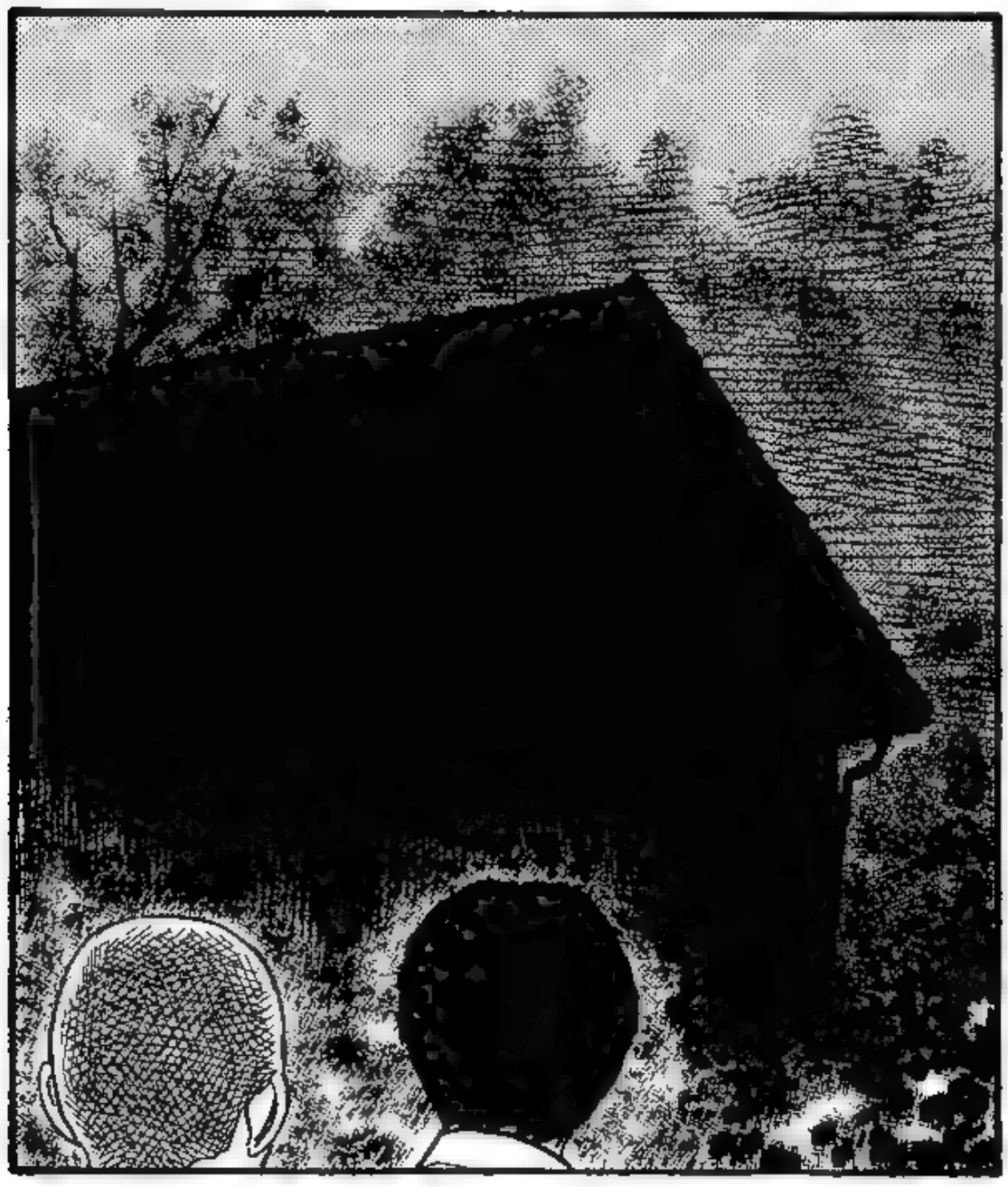
SO YOU WANT TO INVESTIGATE? THAT'S FINE. PLEASE GO RIGHT IN.

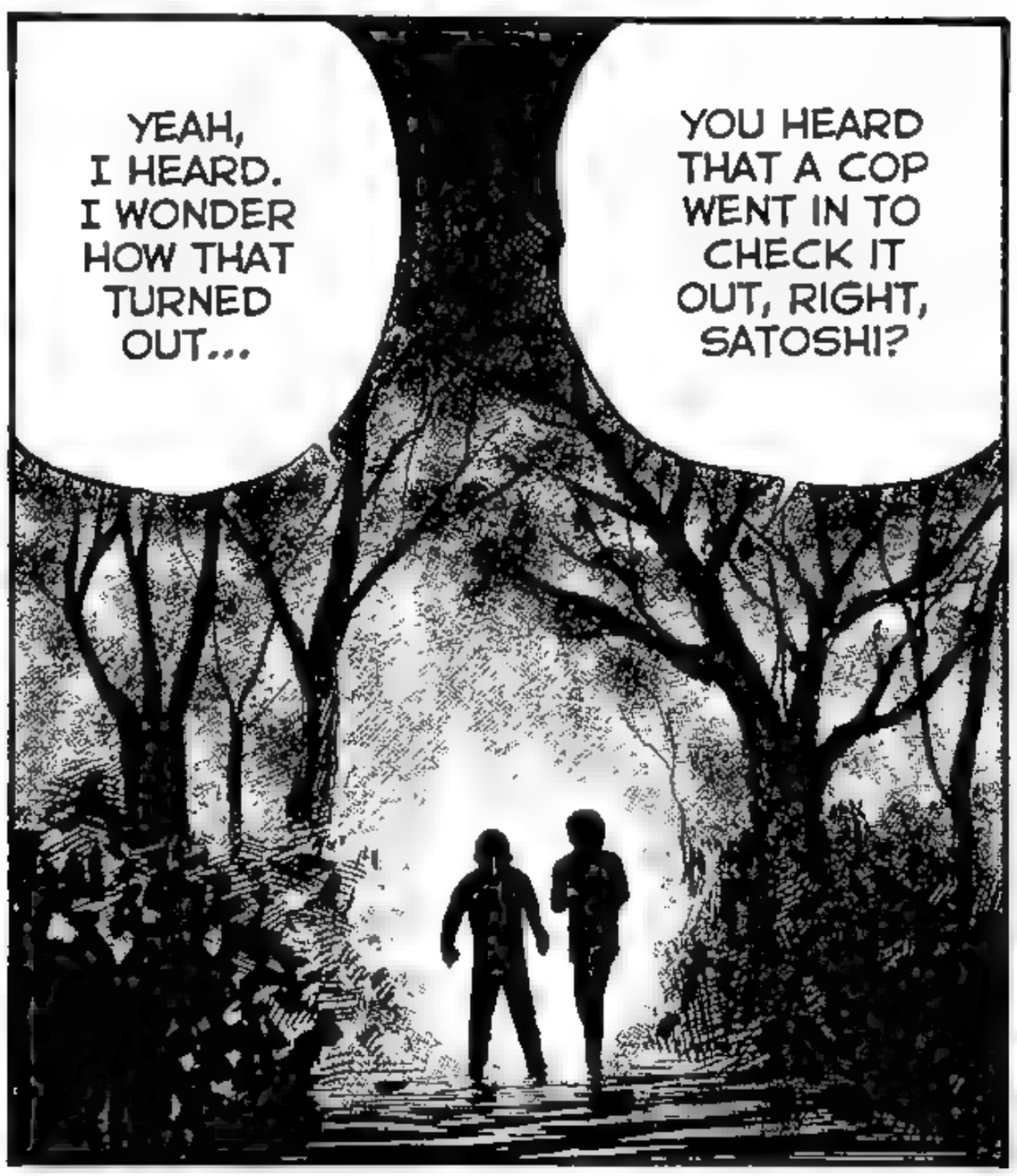
AND SOME PEOPLE SAY THEY SAW A CHILD CHAINED INSIDE.



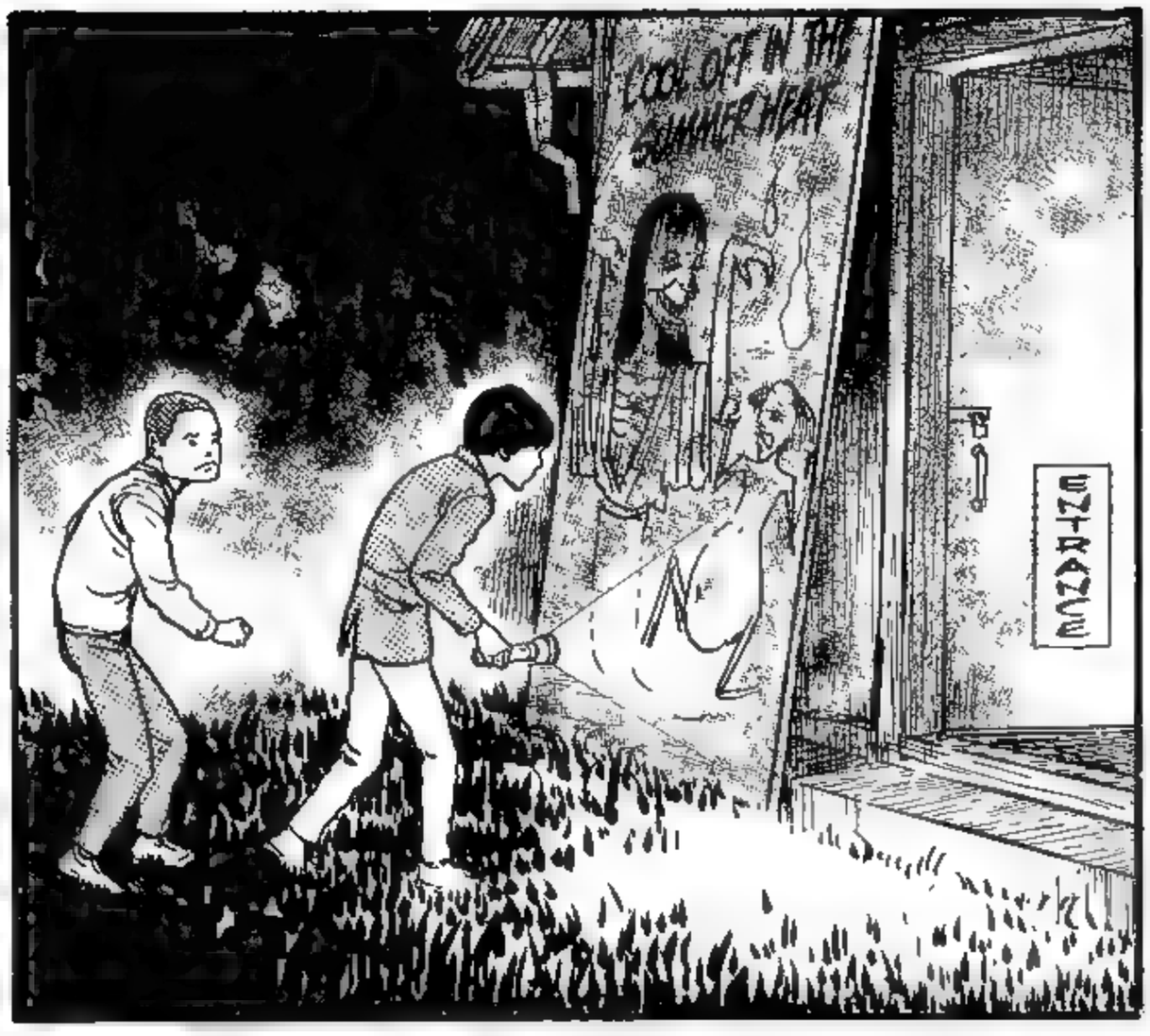
YOU WANNA SNEAK IN?
YEAH. THERE'S A WEIRD RUMOR ABOUT THAT PLACE.


YEAH. WE'RE GONNA GO INSIDE AND CHECK OUT THAT HAUNTED HOUSE.
HEY, KOICHI? ARE WE REALLY DOING THIS?

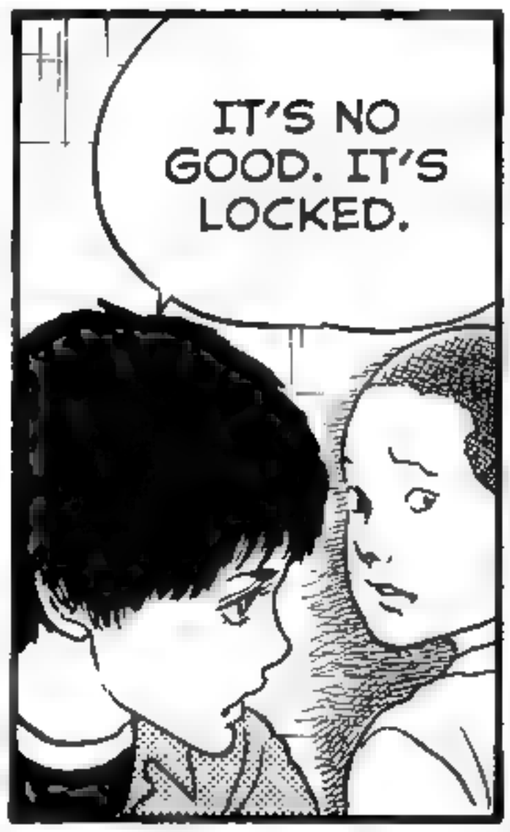



YEAH, I HEARD. I WONDER HOW THAT TURNED OUT...
YOU HEARD THAT A COP WENT IN TO CHECK IT OUT, RIGHT, SATOSHI?

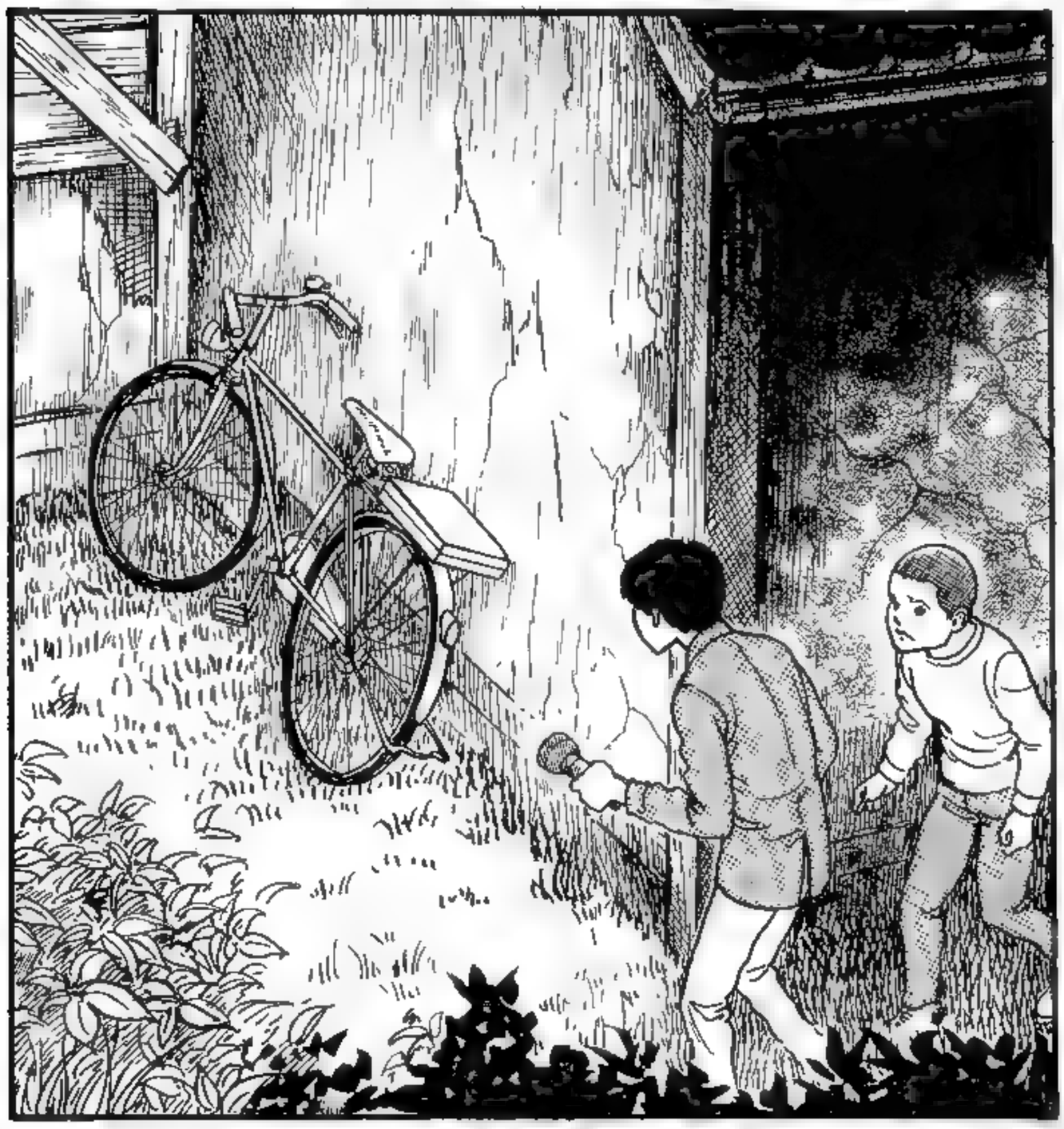
ENTRANCE
EXIT


COOL OFF IN THE SUMMER HEAT
ENTRANCE

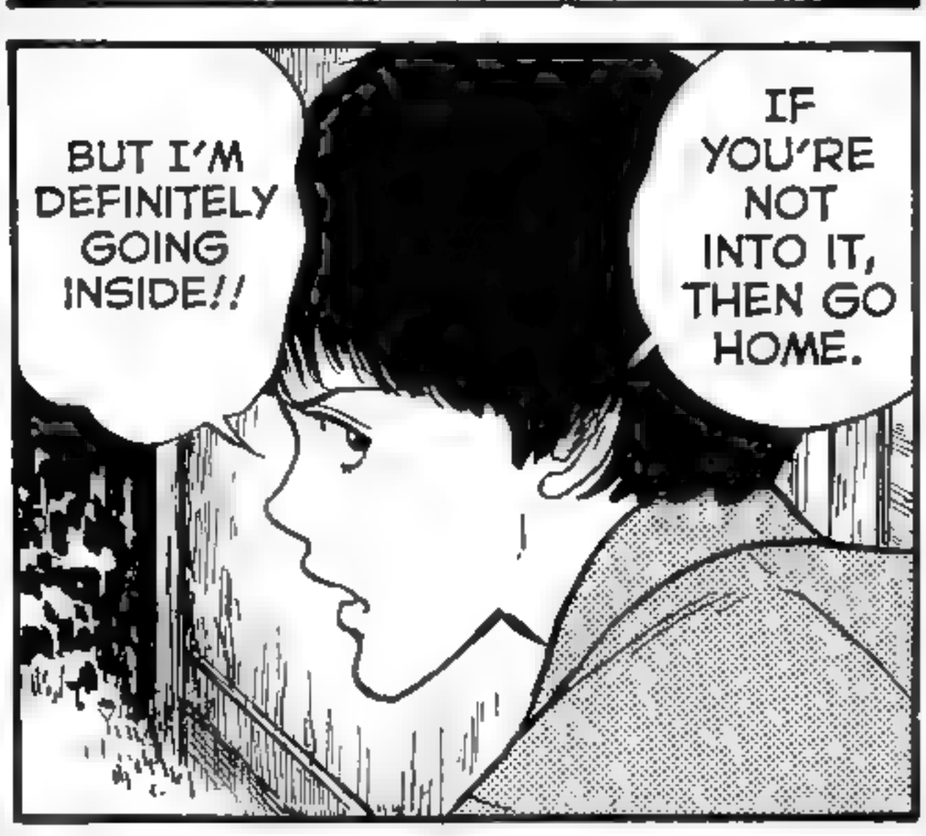
THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY IN SOME-WHERE...
LET'S TRY AROUND BACK.


IT'S NO GOOD. IT'S LOCKED.

RATTLE
RATTLE



HEY, LET'S JUST GIVE IT UP. WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF ANYONE SEES US.


BUT I'M DEFINITELY GOING INSIDE!!
IF YOU'RE NOT INTO IT, THEN GO HOME.

UNH... UNNNNNNH!

AH!

WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?

THIS IS THE POLICEMAN'S BIKE.

NGAAAAAAAAH!

GRAAAAARRR!

AH!

KSH

HNEEEEEEEE!

WHAT IS THAT?!

IT'S COMING FROM INSIDE THE HAUNTED HOUSE!!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING THERE?

BOYS.

AH!

UMM. RIGHT. LOOKS LIKE IT, SO WE'LL GO HOME.

OH HO! BUT BUSINESS HOURS ARE OVER ALREADY.

UMM. UH. WE WANTED TO GO INSIDE THE HAUNTED HOUSE...

YOU GOT SOME REAL GUTS, HM? I LIKE IT!!

TRYING TO GET INTO A HAUNTED HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT LIKE THIS...

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.

JUMP

TONIGHT'S SPECIAL. FREE FOR AS LONG AS YOU WANT. GO HAVE FUN.

ALL RIGHT. IT'S OPEN.

ENTRANCE

EXIT

OFF IN THE ...MER HEAT

CHAK

CHAK

CHAK

ENTRANCE

EXIT

...I-I'M GOING, TOO!!

W-WHAT SHOULD WE DO? I'M GOING, SATOSHI...

GULP

SHAMED

IT'S JUST, LIKE, CHEAP PAPIER MÂCHÉ.

AND... TAKE A LOOK.

COME ON, SATOSHI. TOO LATE FOR THAT.

SHAMED

CREEPY. MAYBE I WILL GO HOME, AFTER ALL.

OH! HANG ON A SEC.

SO HE'S CHARGING THAT MUCH TO COME AND SEE THIS? THAT SUCKS.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THE HEADS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE MADE OF CARD-BOARD ...

THEY DID A REALLY GOOD JOB.

IT DOES...

IT LOOKS PRETTY REAL, HUH?

THAT ONE THERE. THE LAST HEAD...

STARE

SORRY FOR SCARING YOOOOOOU !

HO HO HO HOOOOOO !

VENGEAAAANCE!

AH!

...

I CAN'T REALLY LEND A HAND, BUT I DO WHAT I CAN. HO HO HO HO!

MY LITTLE BROTHER'S THE ONE WHO SET UP THIS HAUNTED HOUSE IN YOUR TOWN.

HUH. SO IT'S JUST A HEAD COMING OUT OF THE TABLE.

I DON'T GET WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT, EITHER.

HEE HEE HEE HEE!

HELLO. WELCOME TO MY SON'S HAUNTED HOUSE.

...AAAAN...

VEEENGGGE...

...SSSSSSS.

I HOPE YOU'LL COME AGAIN TO HIS LITTLE HAUNTED HOUSE.

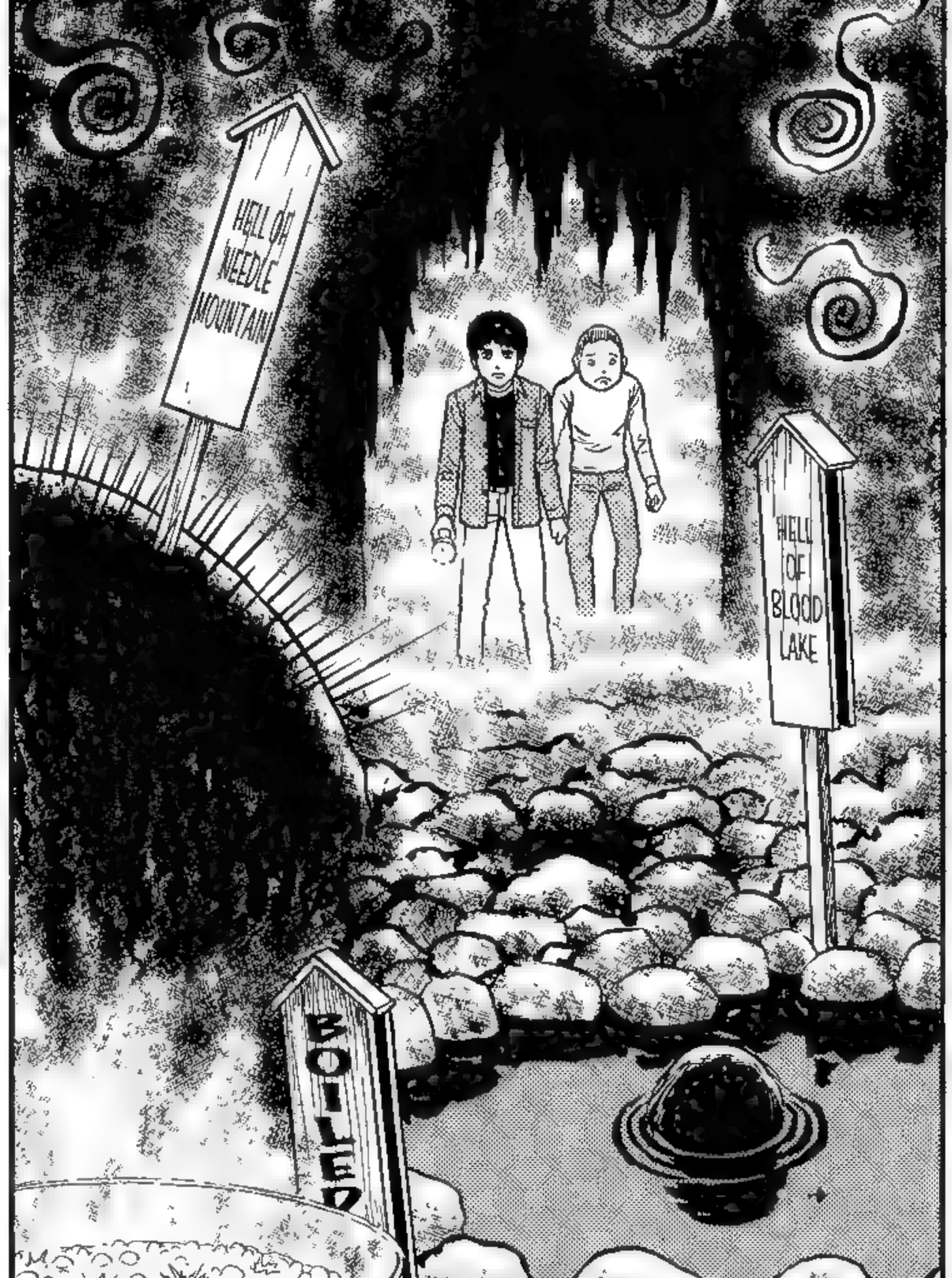
HE REALLY IS A HOPELESS BOY, BUT HE'S STANDING ON HIS OWN TWO FEET SOMEHOW.

HELL AHEAD

UP AHEAD ARE VISIONS OF HELL.

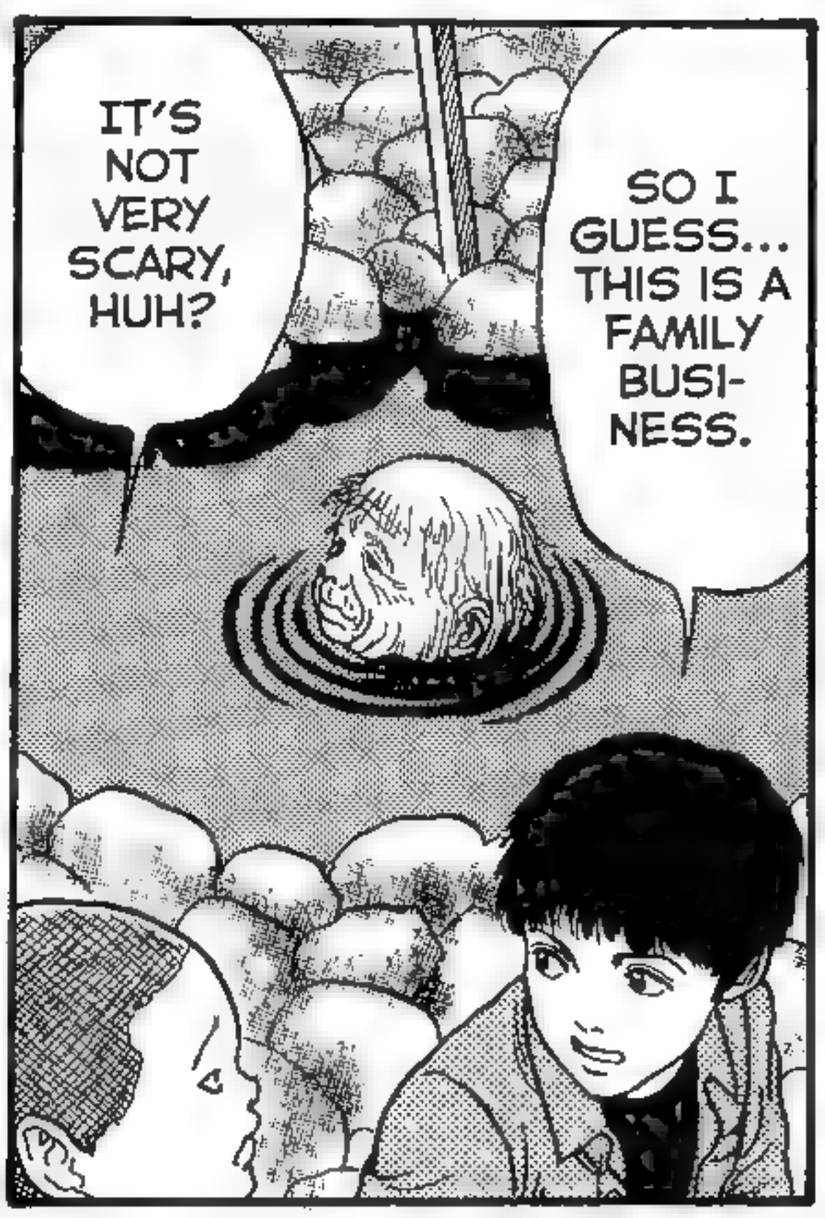
...

BLOOD LAKE


HELL OF NEEDLE MOUNTAIN
HELL OF BLOOD LAKE
BOILED

HELLO, I'M HIS FATHER. HOW ARE YOU ENJOYING MY SON'S HAUNTED HOUSE?

OLDER BROTH-ER MAYBE ?
YOU WANNA BET ON WHO SHOWS UP NEXT?
HELL OF OLD-LADY-OZ


IT'S NOT VERY SCARY, HUH?
SO I GUESS... THIS IS A FAMILY BUSI-NESS.

HELL OF CRUCIFIX-102

HELLO, I'M THE OLDER BROTHER.

THAT LOUSY BROTHER OF MINE. SOME-THING HAS TO BE DONE ABOUT HIM.

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE ...

I WANT YOU TO GET ME DOWN FROM HERE.

BOYS... COULD YOU MAYBE DO ME A FAVOR?

NONE OF THAT CHANGED WHEN HE GREW UP.

DARK, REBELLIOUS, CURSING OTHER PEOPLE...

HE'S BEEN THIS WAY EVER SINCE HE WAS LITTLE.

HE'S NOT NORMAL.

IT'S JUST THAT WE CAN'T ESCAPE HIS MAGIC.

WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY HELPING HIM BECAUSE WE WANT TO.

ON TOP OF THAT, HE LEARNED SOME STRANGE MAGIC AT SOME POINT.

YOU HAVE TO STOP HERE.

BOYS...

NOW HE MAKES HIS FAMILY DO WHATEVER HE WANTS.

THE BASTARD HE MADE WITH A RANDOM WOMAN...

UP AHEAD... MY BROTHER'S CHILD IS IN CHAINS.

SO MUCH SO THAT EVEN *HE* IS AFRAID OF HER. HE KEEPS RUNNING AWAY.

NO, SHE'S EVEN STRANGER THAN HE IS!!

MY BROTHER MIGHT BE STRANGE, BUT SO IS SHE.

TO BEGIN WITH, HIS MOTHER ISN'T NORMAL !!

HE'S NOT A NORMAL CHILD.

HOW CAN I PUT THIS...

THAT WOMAN... SHE'S DEFINITELY STILL LOOKING FOR HIM, GIVEN THAT HE RAN OFF WITH THEIR CHILD.

THE ONLY REASON HE TRAVELS AROUND WITH THIS SHOW IS TO GET AWAY FROM HER.

SHWP SHWP

AH ?!

TUNK

TUNK

DEAR BROTHER... NO NEED TO FLAP YOUR LIPS SO.

HEH HEH HEH!

GRIN

CHUK

CHUK

YEAH.

H-HEY. LET'S GO.

HA HA HA... I KNOW... I WAS JUST JOKING.

YOU'LL WORK FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE UNDER ME IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

I TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU FOR ONE SECOND ...

KRNCH

KRNCH

THIS IS A PRETTY WEIRD HAUNTED HOUSE, HUH?

LET'S JUST HURRY THROUGH IT AND GO HOME.

KRNCH

KRNCH

...WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

KRNCH

KRNCH

KRNCH

KRNCH

LOOKS LIKE HE'S EATING SOME-THING...

IS THAT MAYBE...THE SON WHO'S CHAINED UP THERE?

KRNCH

KRNCH

AH! LOOK AT THAT.

KRNCH

KRNCH

THERE'S SOMEONE THERE...

AH!

KRNCH

KRNCH

THE POLICE-MAN!

TH-

GRRAAR!

AH!

SHAK

YOU TWO, COME OVER HERE!

GRRRAA-AARRR!

SHAK

IF YOU DO, I'LL BE NICE AND EAT YOU.

HURRY UP!

YOUR TENDER MEAT AND WARM BLOOD CALL TO ME.

I WANT TO EAT YOU WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.

YEAH!

SA-TOSHI, RUN!

GRAB

KEE SHEE SHEE SHEE SHEE!

NOW, COME ON!

AH!

RIP YOU TO PIECES!

I'LL EAT YOU! HOLLOW YOU OUT!!

SATOSHI!!

KOICHI! HELP ME!

I WAS TERRIFIED. I LEFT SATOSHI AND RAN.

HAUNTED HOUSE

COOL OFF IN TH SUMMER HE

AH?!

STOP RIGHT THERE!

CRACK

EEAAAAAH!

KEE SHEE SHEE SHEE!

POOR YOU! NOW YOU KNOW MY SECRET!

STOOO-OOOP!

HEE HEE HEE HEE!

PWET

SHWP

SHWP

HNGAH!

THUK

I CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER!

WAAAAAIIIIT!

KEE SHEE SHEE!

SOMEONE! HEEEEELP!

KEE! SHEE! SHEE! SCREAM ALL YOU WANT, IT'S NO USE.

KLAK KLAK KLAK

!

HM?

NOW, COME HERE.

THE NEXT TIME YOU RUN FROM ME, YOU WON'T LIVE TO REGRET IT.

I FINALLY FOUND YOU, DARLING...

EEEEEEEE!

AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME THAT NIGHT.

EVENTS SO TOTALLY STRANGE THAT EVEN REMEMBERING IT ALL NOW, I DON'T GET IT...

THE POLICE OFFICER AND SATOSHI WERE NEVER FOUND.

THE NEXT DAY, THE HAUNTED HOUSE WAS AN EMPTY SHELL.

THE MYSTERY OF THE HAUNTED HOUSE / END

続・お化け屋敷の謎

双一郎伝

HAUNTED

THE MYSTERY OF THE
HAUNTED HOUSE:
SOICHI'S VERSION

IS THERE A TSUJII FAMILY LIVING AROUND HERE?

EXCUSE ME?

I'VE BEEN WALKING AROUND JAPAN...

...FOR TEN YEARS AL-READY.

COULDN'T TELL YOU.

NO IDEA...

THIS PHOTO IS FROM ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO.

THE SUN'S GOING DOWN. ANOTHER DAY GONE WITHOUT FINDING ANY TRACES OF THEM.

I SHOULD FIND SOMEPLACE TO STAY.

OH, WELL, THANKS...

I'M TOTALLY GOING TO FIND THEM!

BROTHER, I'M NOT GIVING UP.

INN

I AM. I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN!

AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR YOU?! THEY'RE OUR FAMILY. AREN'T YOU WORRIED?!

KOICHI AND HIS FAMILY'S DISAPPEAR-ANCE *HAS* BEEN REPORTED TO THE POLICE.

BUT, MICHINA, YOU GOING AROUND LOOKING FOR THEM BY YOURSELF...

I'M ON A TRIP WITHOUT A DESTINATION ...

BUT MY BROTHER'S RIGHT.

SLAM

AH! MICHI-NA!!

ENOUGH!! I'M GOING TO KEEP LOOKING!

MISS, SUPPER'S READY. PLEASE COME TO THE DINING ROOM.

OH. SURE.

THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.

WHEE! HEE!

WHEE! WHEE! WHEE!

TTTUUKK

COME ON!

TAKE A NAP

WHEE! HEE!

U U

TAKE A NAP

HIROSHI! YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED IN THE DINING ROOM!!

HA HA HA HA!

OUR GUEST IS IN THE MIDDLE OF SUPPER!

I DIDN'T RAISE YOU TO BE SO DISRE-SPECTFUL!!

HE'S FULL OF LIFE. IT'S LOVELY.

UM. I DON'T MIND AT ALL...

HEE! HEE!

THERE! GOT YOU!!

FWUT!

WIAP

YOU DO NOT TALK TO YOUR MOTHER LIKE THAT!!

I'M A KID. CUT ME A BREAK.

SEE? THE GUEST SAID SO, TOO.

SHWP

SHWP

TATUNK

COME HERE!!

AAAAH! AGAIN?! THIS BOY!!

KEE SHEE SHEE SHEE!

I'M FINE...

YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU?!

I AM SO SORRY, MISS!!

HE DIDN'T USED TO BE LIKE THIS.

I'M SORRY.

HIS... THOSE NAILS...

BUT... I'M A LITTLE CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR SON.

A HAUNTED HOUSE?

HAUNTED HOUSE

HAUNTED HOUSE

HAUNTED HOUSE

HAUNTED HOUSE

I GUESS THEY WENT TO SEE SOME TOURING HAUNTED HOUSE...

WHEN I THINK BACK, HE'S BEEN... STRANGE EVER SINCE HE WENT OFF TO PLAY SOMEWHERE WITH HIS FRIENDS LAST YEAR.

JUST LIKE SOICHI.

THOSE NAILS ...

THE WAY HE SMILED...

SHE SAID HE CHANGED BECAUSE OF A HAUNTED HOUSE, BUT SHE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT.

BUT WHY WOULD HIROSHI BE DOING THAT STUFF?

GLOOMY, REBELLIOUS, ALWAYS WITH NAILS IN HIS MOUTH.

HE SHOULD BE 27 NOW...

SOICHI, THE YOUNGEST TSUJII, THE FAMILY I'M LOOKING FOR.

I FEEL LIKE THIS IS CONNECTED TO THE TSUJII FAMILY DISAPPEARANCE SOMEHOW, THOUGH.

INN

INN

?

MACHO TIMES 2004

NO... THERE AREN'T ANY CLUES HERE—

DID YOU FIND A CLUE ABOUT THOSE RELATIVES YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

YOU'RE READING THAT PAPER QUITE INTENTLY, HM?

THE SUDDEN APPEAR-ANCE OF TWISTED CHIL-DREN ALL OVER JAPAN!

Nails and straw dolls
re we supposed to explain this
nenon? Families all across Japan
as one child after another grows
ngely twisted. Children who were
iously cheerful and bright suddenly
ome gloomy, sulky and rebellious. Not
ly that, but these boys and girls walk
round with nails in their mouths
sending them shooting out on occasion

Specialists are also racking their brains. This phenomenon appears to be spreading through out Japan

This phenomenon is spreading to the north of the Japanese archipelago, almost like the cherry blossom front, and the leading edge of that front is currently in the Tohoku region.

Not only that, but these boys and girls walk around with nails in their mouths, sending them shooting out on occasion.

Children who were previously cheerful and bright suddenly become gloomy, sulky and rebellious.

Families all across Japan watch as one child after another grows strangely twisted.

I'M HEADING TO TOHOKU!!

BROTHER, I MIGHT HAVE A LEAD ON WHERE KOICHI'S FAMILY IS.

KRRRRRR

...THIS TOWN IS THE LEADING EDGE OF THE SOICHI FRONT RIGHT NOW!

...AND THE INFORMATION I'VE GATHERED BY HITTING THE PAVEMENT MYSELF...

ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER AND OTHER MEDIA...

KATLINK KATLINK

OYAMA-MURA

WHEE! HEE!

AND THE COMMON ELEMENT IS...

...A TRAVELING HAUNTED HOUSE!!

BAZO

GZAB

BAZO

KEE SHEE SHEE SHEE SHEE!

EXCUSE ME?

UM.

WHAT? THE HAUNTED HOUSE?

YES, IT'S JUST UP THE ROAD THERE INTO THE MOUNTAINS.

KSH
KSH

IS THERE REALLY A HAUNTED HOUSE WAY UP HERE?

!

KSH KSH KSH

KSH
KSH
KSH

KSH
KSH
KSH

GRAB

AAAAAA

AAAAAAAH!

PLEASE HELP ME...

H-HELP ME...

THE HAUNTED HOUSE!!

...

WHERE ?

GOT YOUR FAMILY ...

HE'S STILL GOT MY FAMILY... HELP ME GET THEM OUT!

HELP ME. I GOT AWAY...

TH-THIS WAY.

HAUNTED HOUSE?!

MY FAMILY'S BEING HELD AT THE HAUNTED HOUSE. PLEASE HELP ME...

IT'S TERRIFYING TO EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

...

WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON THERE?

I ACTUALLY CAME HERE LOOKING FOR THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

KSHH KSHH KSSH KSSH

TAKING CARE OF HIM IS MORE FRIGHTENING THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

AND IT'S NOT JUST THAT. HE HAS A HORRIFYING CHILD. A SON HE MADE WITH A MONSTER.

HE PUT A CURSE ON US, AND NOW WE HAVE TO DO WHATEVER HE WANTS.

THE OWNER IS A DEMON. HE DESTROYED OUR HAPPY FAMILY.

...

MY LITTLE BROTHER. A TERRI-FYING MAN.

THE OWNER... WHO EXACTLY IS HE?

I FINALLY MANAGE TO ESCAPE. BUT THE BOY BIT ME. LOOK AT ME.

WHAT ?!

...

MY NAME IS MICHINA HIROSE.

UM, I'M LOOKING FOR THIS FAMILY, THE TSUJIIS. THEY'RE MY RELATIVES.

KSH KSH

AAH... AH...

AH...

OH. UM...

OH! PLEASE WAIT.

PLEASE GO!

G-GO HOME!

HE'S CHANGED SO MUCH, I DIDN'T REALIZE IT, BUT...

IT CAN'T BE... HE CAN'T ACTUALLY BE KOICHI?!

HIS WHOLE ATTITUDE CHANGED WHEN HE HEARD MY NAME.

WHY WOULD HE RUN AWAY?!

KSH

SO THEN... THE OWNER WOULD HAVE TO BE SOICHI.

AH!!

IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE WE HEARD ANYTHING FROM THE TSUJIIS. WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED DURING THAT TIME?!

HAUNTED HOUSE

HAUNTED HOUSE

HAUNTED HOUSE

THEY'RE THE SAME STYLE AS THE ONE IN SOICHI'S ROOM WHEN WE WERE LITTLE.

...THESE PAPIER MÂCHÉ MONSTERS ...

SNAP

WHAP

FORGIVE MEEEEEE !

EEEEE!

WHAP

WHAP

WHAP

WHAP

PLEASE, I BEG YOOO-OUUUU !

MASTER SOI-CHI!!!!!!!! !

YOU'RE A DISLOYAL MAN, RUNNING AWAY FROM THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU, KOICHI !!

WHIP

WHIP

SNAP

HEE-EEE! HEE! HEE! HEE!

JUMP

STOP THAT!

BUT YOU *HAVE* GOTTEN UGLIER...

MICHINA, RIGHT? AS IF I COULD FORGET THAT FACE.

GR-Z

...

AND NOW YOU'VE GOT SOME NEW, MALICIOUS TRICKS! YOU'RE HOPELESS!

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN TWISTED, EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS.

WHIPPING YOUR BROTHER?! WHAT IS GOING ON?!

SOICHI!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I CAME TO GET KOICHI AND SAYURI AND AUNTIE AND UNCLE BACK!! NOW HAND THEM OVER, RIGHT THIS INSTANT!

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO LISTEN TO YOU BRAG!

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GREAT, AND NOW, THROUGH THIS HAUNTED HOUSE, I AM PLACING A CURSE ON THE CHILDREN OF THIS COUNTRY. MY INFLUENCE REACHES FAR AND WIDE.

HEH HEH HEH! PLEASE, LET'S NOT CALL THEM TRICKS. WE SHOULD REALLY SAY I HAVE POWERFUL MAGIC NOW.

HEH HEH HEH!

NGH!

STOP!

HEE HEE HEE HEE!

THD THD THD

IF YOU CAN TAKE THEM BACK, THEN YOU JUST GO RIGHT AHEAD!

AH!

KOICHI!! WHERE ARE YOU?! ANSWER ME!!

SOICHI!! COME OUT!!

GRRAAAR

GRRAAAAAAR

GRRAAAR

GRRAAAAAAR

GRRAAAR

AH!

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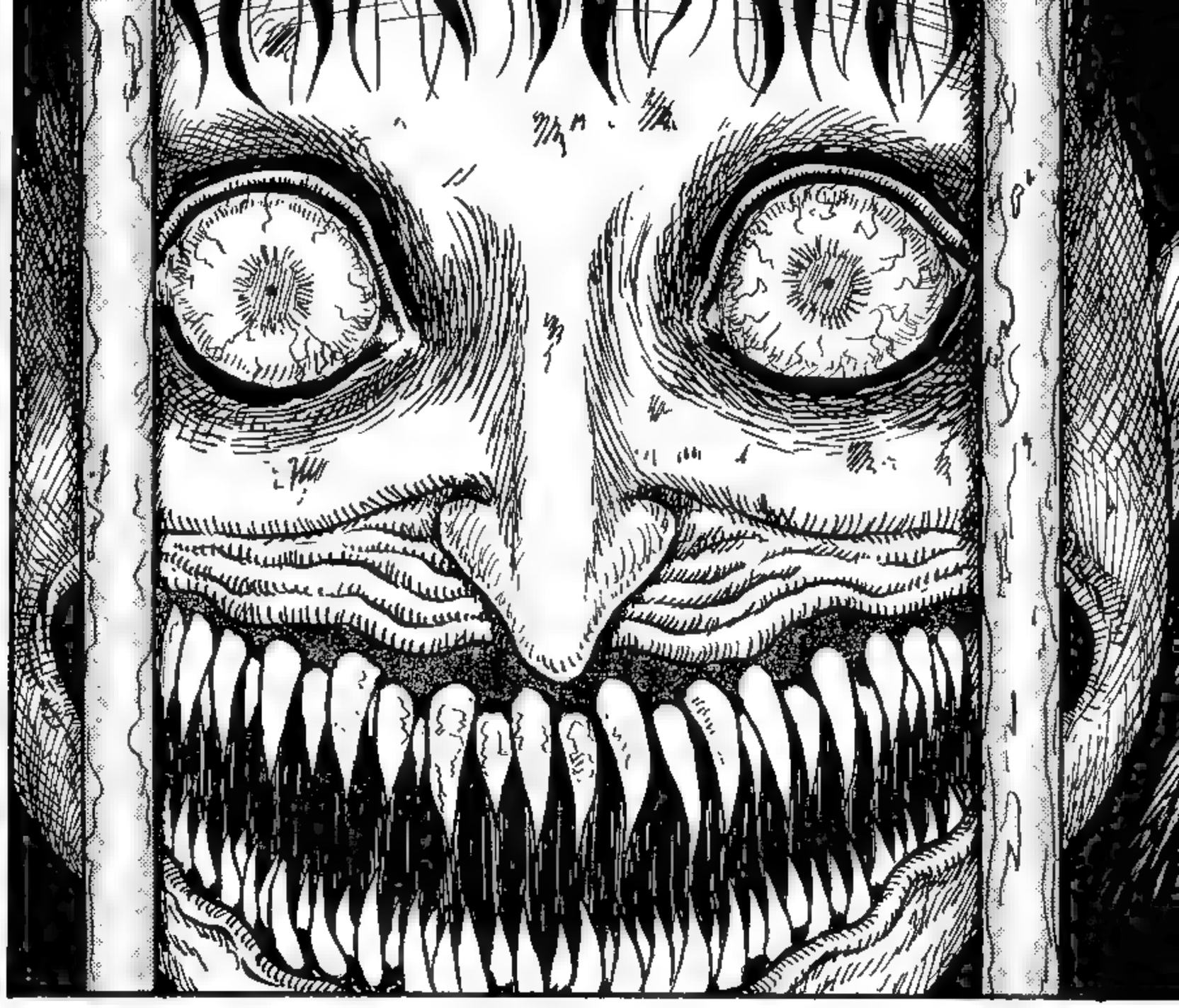
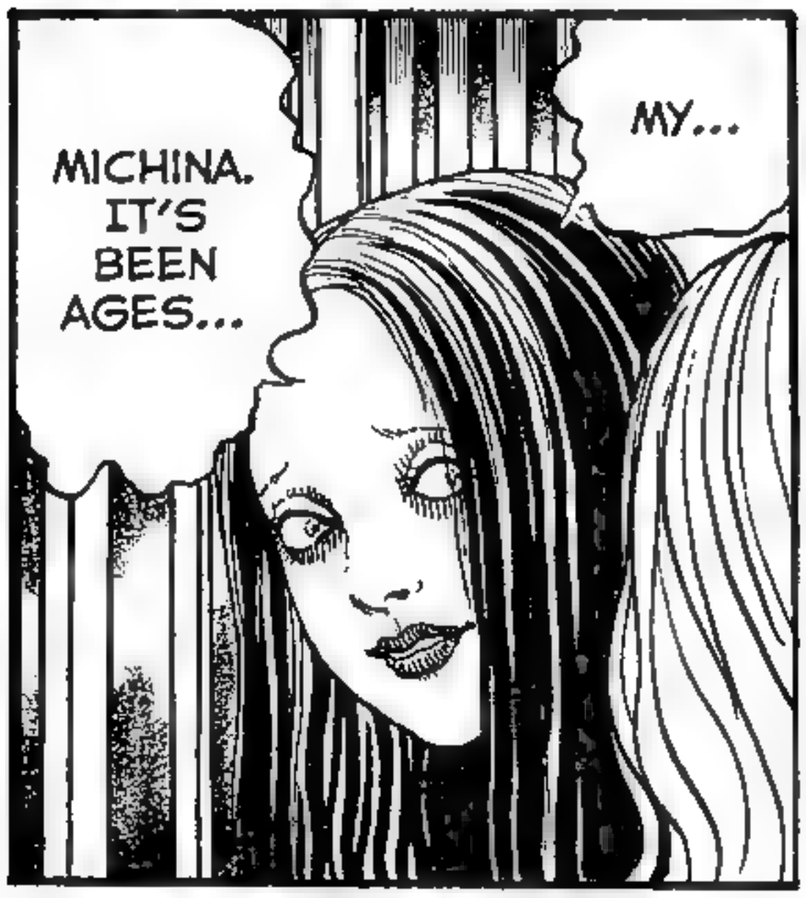
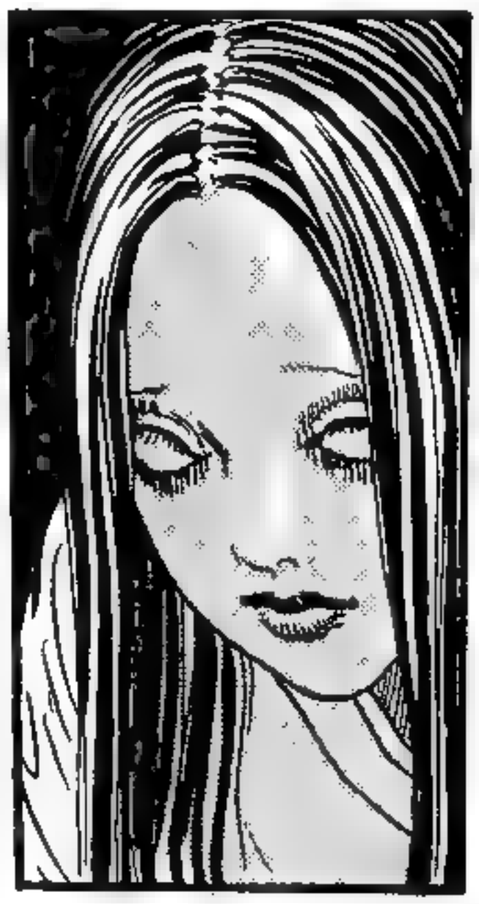
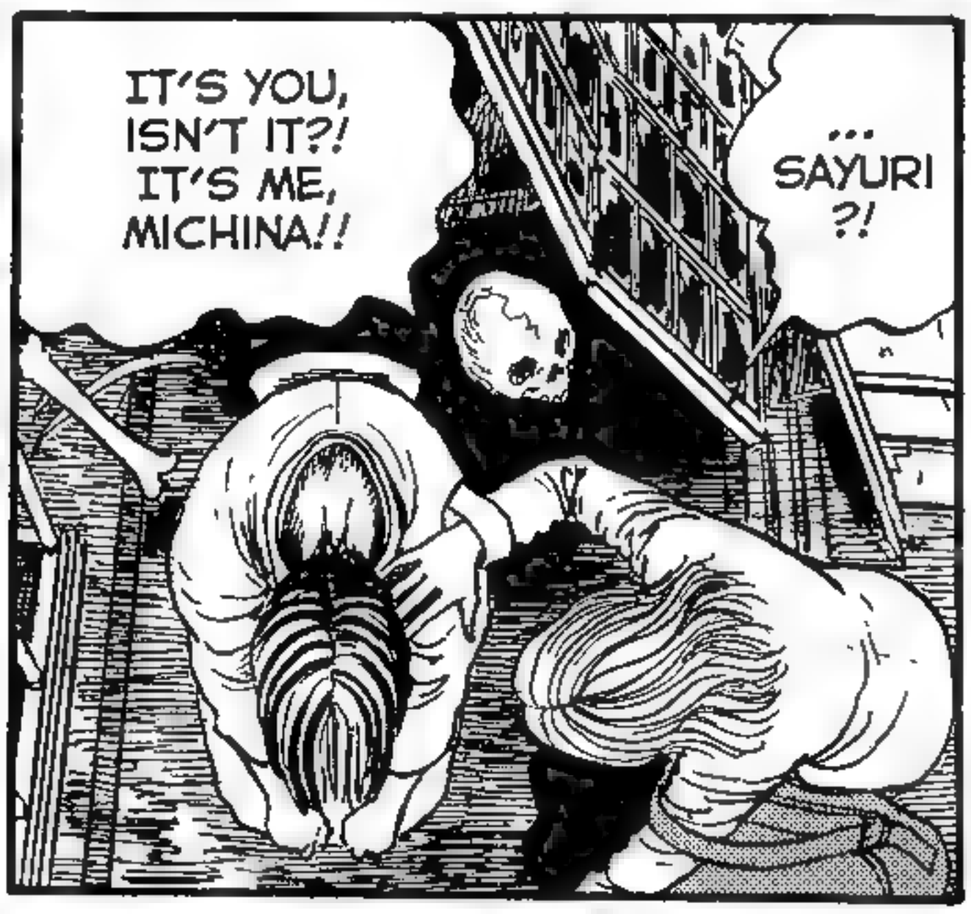
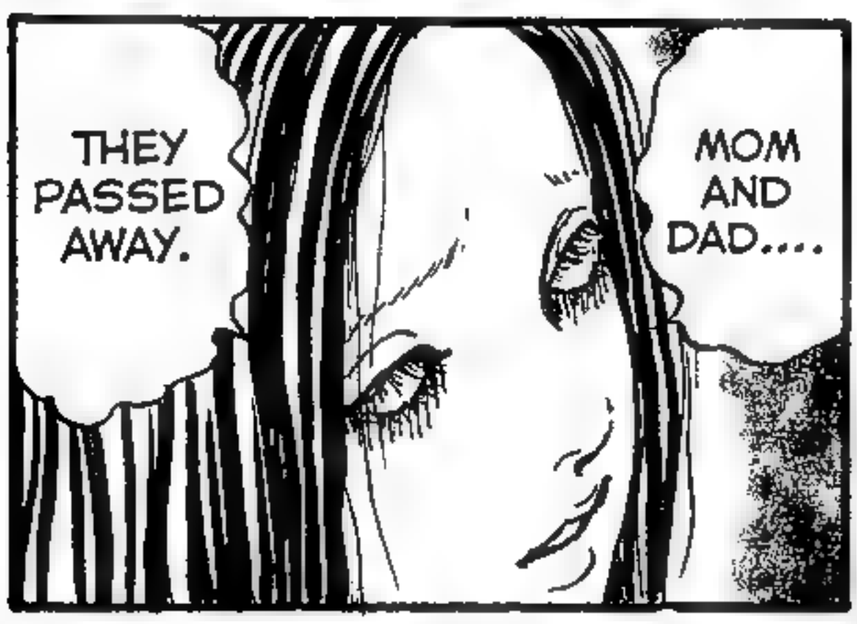
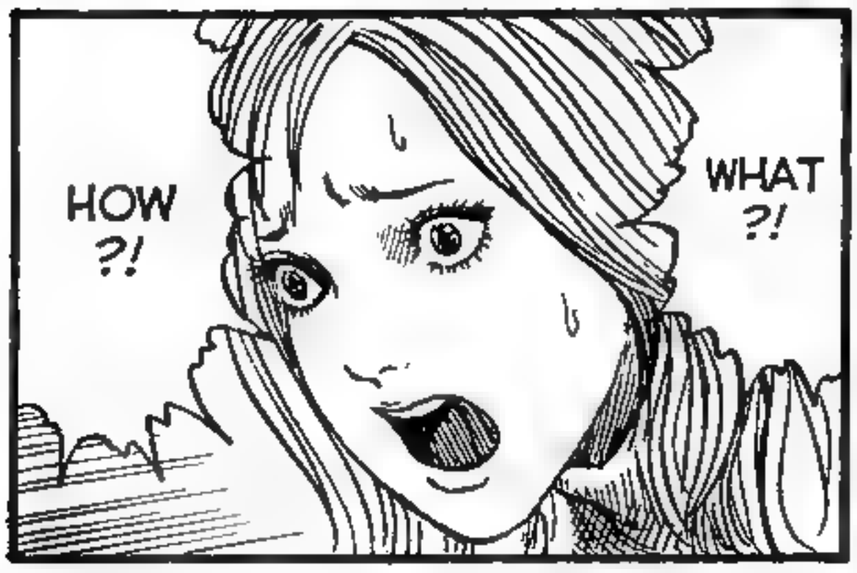


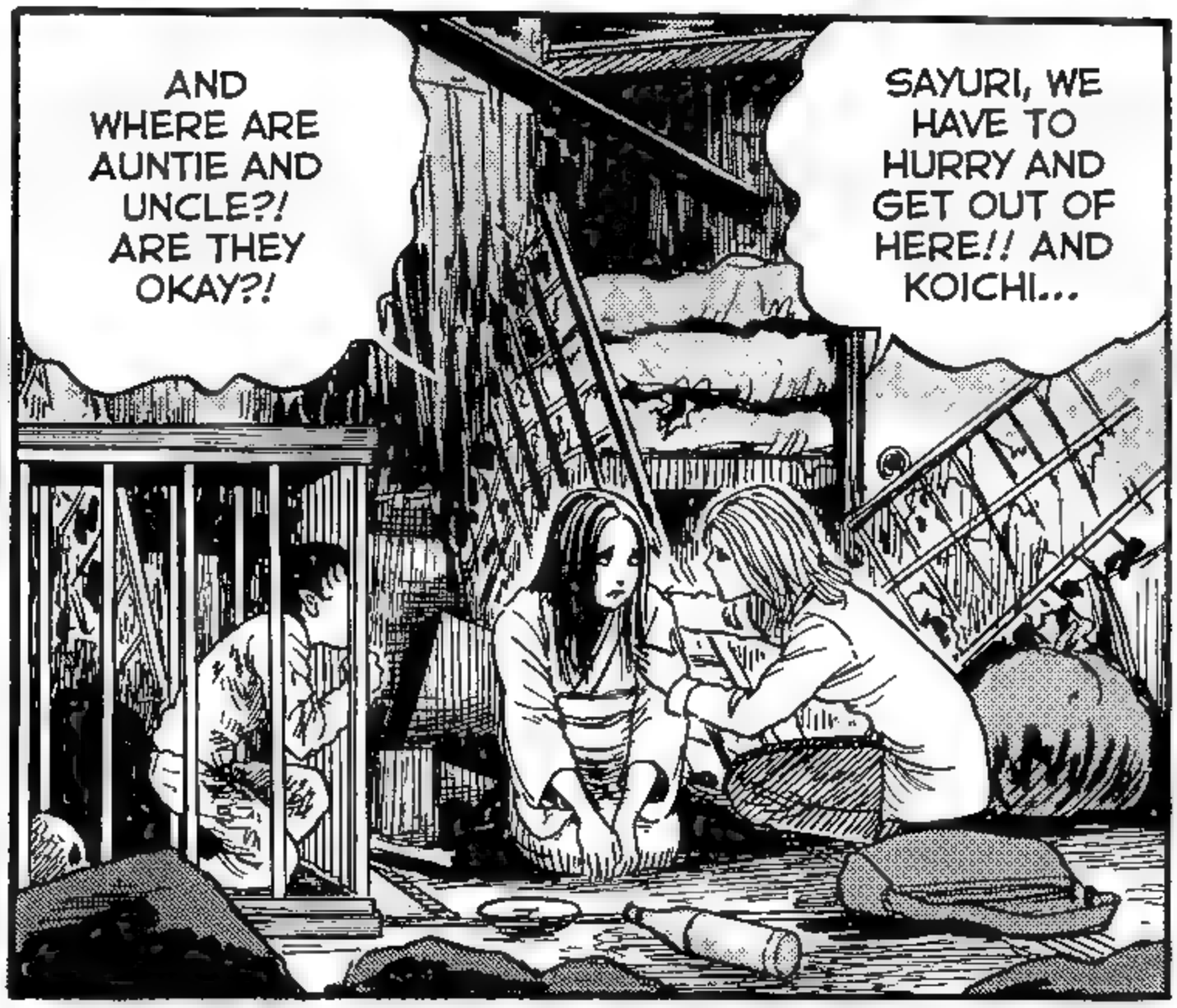

MICHINA. IT'S BEEN AGES...
MY...




IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?! IT'S ME, MICHINA!!
...SAYURI ?!


THEY PASSED AWAY.
MOM AND DAD....


HOW ?!
WHAT ?!


AND WHERE ARE AUNTIE AND UNCLE?! ARE THEY OKAY?!
SAYURI, WE HAVE TO HURRY AND GET OUT OF HERE!! AND KOICHI...

GRRAAAAR

...HE KILLED AND ATE BOTH OF THEM.

WHEN THEY WERE WATCHING OVER THIS BOY HERE...

WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS CHILD ...?

HEH HEH HEH! CUTE, HM? MY BEAUTIFUL BOY...

LET ME EAT YOUR LIVING ORGAAAAAANS.

I'M HUNGRYYYYY.

I'LL SAY HELLO ONCE I EAT HER ORGANS.

COME NOW, BINZO. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY HELLO TO THE NICE LADY?

GREAT NAME, HM?

WE CALL HIM BINZO.

NOW WHO COULD HE TAKE AFTER, HM?

HONESTLY. A TERRIFYING KID.

DO IT NOW!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!

HEY, KOICHI! THROW MICHINA INTO THE CAGE.

NO CHOICE, THEN. I'LL HAVE MICHINA BE BINZO'S FOOD.

GAAAAH!

UNH...

NGH NGH NGH.

NGH ...

KOICHI!

UNNNNH!

AAAAAH!

NGH NGH ...

...RELIABLE KOICHI FROM WHEN WE WERE KIDS...

BACK TO THE COOL...

COME BACK TO YOUR SENSES ...

KOICHI... STOP...

PLAYING WITH YOU GUYS OVER SUMMER BREAK.

I-I CAN'T FORGET ALL THOSE TIMES FROM OUR CHILDHOOD!!

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN... IMPORTANT TO ME...

I'VE NEVER STOPPED LOOKING FOR YOU... FOR TEN YEARS NOW...

THESE MEMORIES ARE PRICELESS FOR ME!!

SO, PLEASE, KOICHI...

ALL OF US EATING WATERMELON AND SHAVED ICE.

PLAYING CARDS.

RUNNING AROUND IN THE WOODS.

SWIMMING IN THE POOL.

I REMEMBER ALL OF IT LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY.

PANT

PANT

GO BACK TO THE OLD KOICHI AND SAYURI!

YES, KOICHI.

AND SAYURI, IT'S THE SAME FOR YOU, RIGHT?!

THOSE... THOSE ARE PRICELESS MEMORIES FOR ME, TOO.

MICHINA, FORGIVE ME... SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH ME...

THAT'S ENOUGH!!

SOICHI !!

JUMP

DAMMIT! IS THE CURSE WEAKER? I'LL CAST AN EVEN STRONGER ONE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HURRY UP AND FEED HER TO HIM!!

WE'RE NOT DOING WHAT YOU SAY ANYMORE!

NEUROSPORA CRASSA! NEUROSPORA CRASSA! NEUROSPORA XANTHIC!

CLANG

IF YOU LOVE BINZO SO MUCH, YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM!

GRRAAAR

SMASH

CRUNCH

CAW

AAAH!

CRACK CRACK

CRACK CRACK

EEEAAAAAAAAH!

STOP THAT!! I'M YOUR FATHER!!

AH!

EEEEEEEE!

KRAK KRAK

HAUNTED HOUSE

HAUNTED HOUSE

I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU ANYMORE. I'M EATING YOU THIS TIME!!

HONEY... YOU RAN OFF ON ME AGAIN.

Y- YOU—

EEEEE!

KRRG

LEAP

AAAH!

WAS THAT A DREAM ...?

...A DREAM ?

HAAH...

HAAH!

AND FUN, TOO. AN INTER-ESTING SORT OF DREAM...

STILL, IT WAS PRETTY SCARY.

WANDERING ALL OVER WITH MY FAMILY, RUNNING A HAUNTED HOUSE...

IT WAS SUCH A LONG ONE...

PHEW, IT WAS ALL A DREAM.

HA HA HA HA HA!

...BUT MICHINA WENT AND WRECKED EVERYTHING. DAMMIT.

I WAS GONNA CONQUER JAPAN...

PON

AH!

HA HA HA HA HA!

SURE.

WE'LL GO ONE MORE TIME, AND THEN IT'S YOUR GUYS'S TURN, OKAY?

NO PROBLEM, KOICHI!

SORRY 'BOUT THAT, MICHINA!

HE'S TAKING A NAP, SO HE'S GOOD. LET'S EAT IT ALL.

WE HAVE TO SET SOME ASIDE FOR SOICHI.

COMING, AUNTIE!!

KIDS! WATER-MELON!

YEAH, TOTALLY!

HEY, ONCE WE'RE DONE, YOU WANT TO GO TO THE POOL?

RRRR

SOICHI'S BELOVED PET

双一の愛玩動物

OKAY, SEE YOU!

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

OH MY! WHAT A CUTE KITTY.

MEOW

MEOW

...

MEOW

MEOW

SO CAN WE KEEP HER?

SHE FOLLOWED ME HOME.

HM? WHERE'D THAT CAT COME FROM?

HEY, DAD.

HOO-RAY!

YAY!

JUST MAKE SURE YOU TAKE CARE OF HER.

WELL... I GUESS IT'S FINE.

IT'S OKAY, RIGHT, DAD?

OH! COLLON. WHAT A SWEETIE.

PURR PURR

WE ALREADY DECIDED. COLLON.

WHAT SHOULD WE CALL HER?

PURR PURR

YOUR DAD'S HEAD OVER HEELS FOR COLLON, HM?

UGH, STOP IT, DAD.

HA HA HA!

K I S S

K I S S

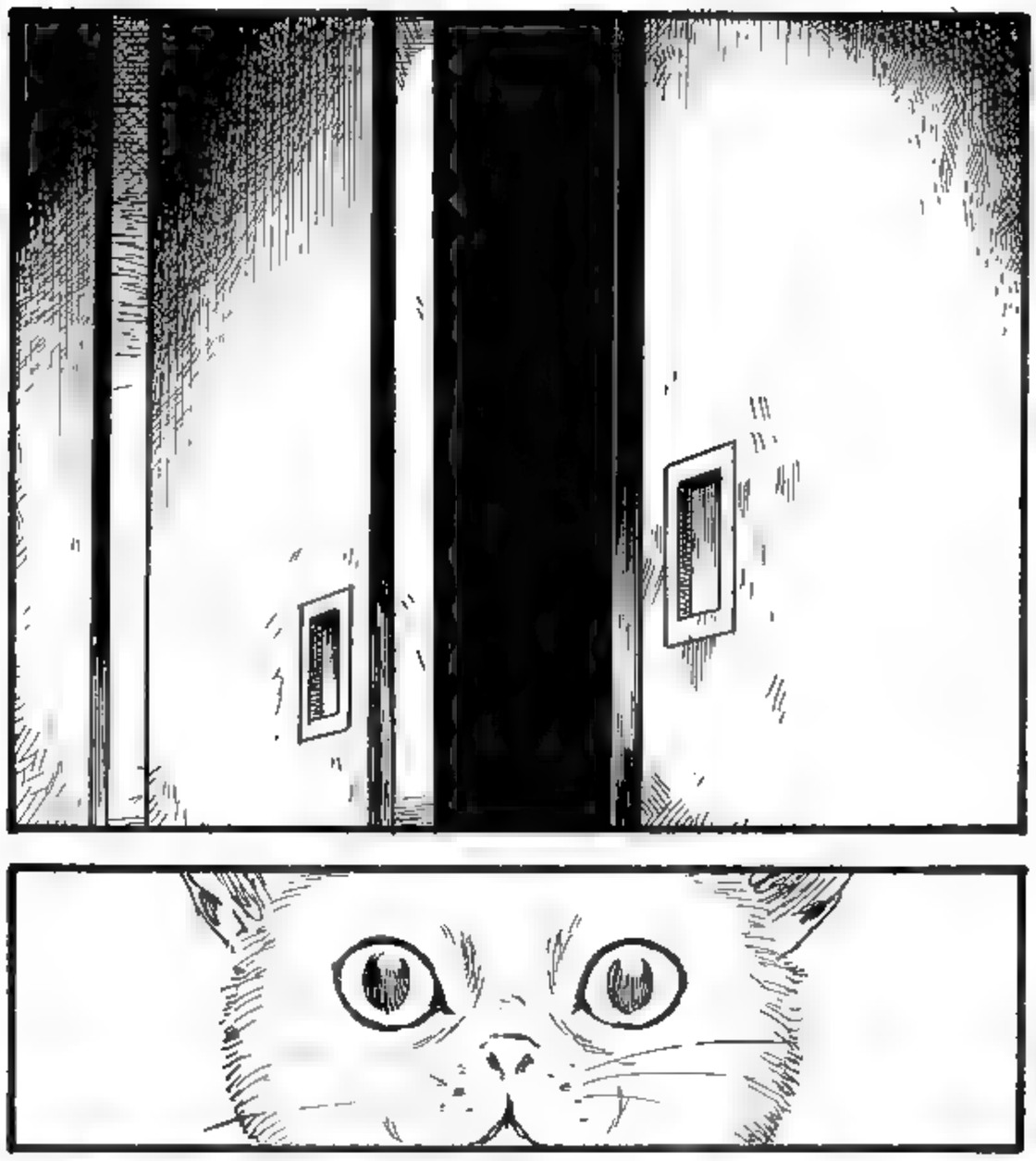
YES, YOU ARE, COL-LON!

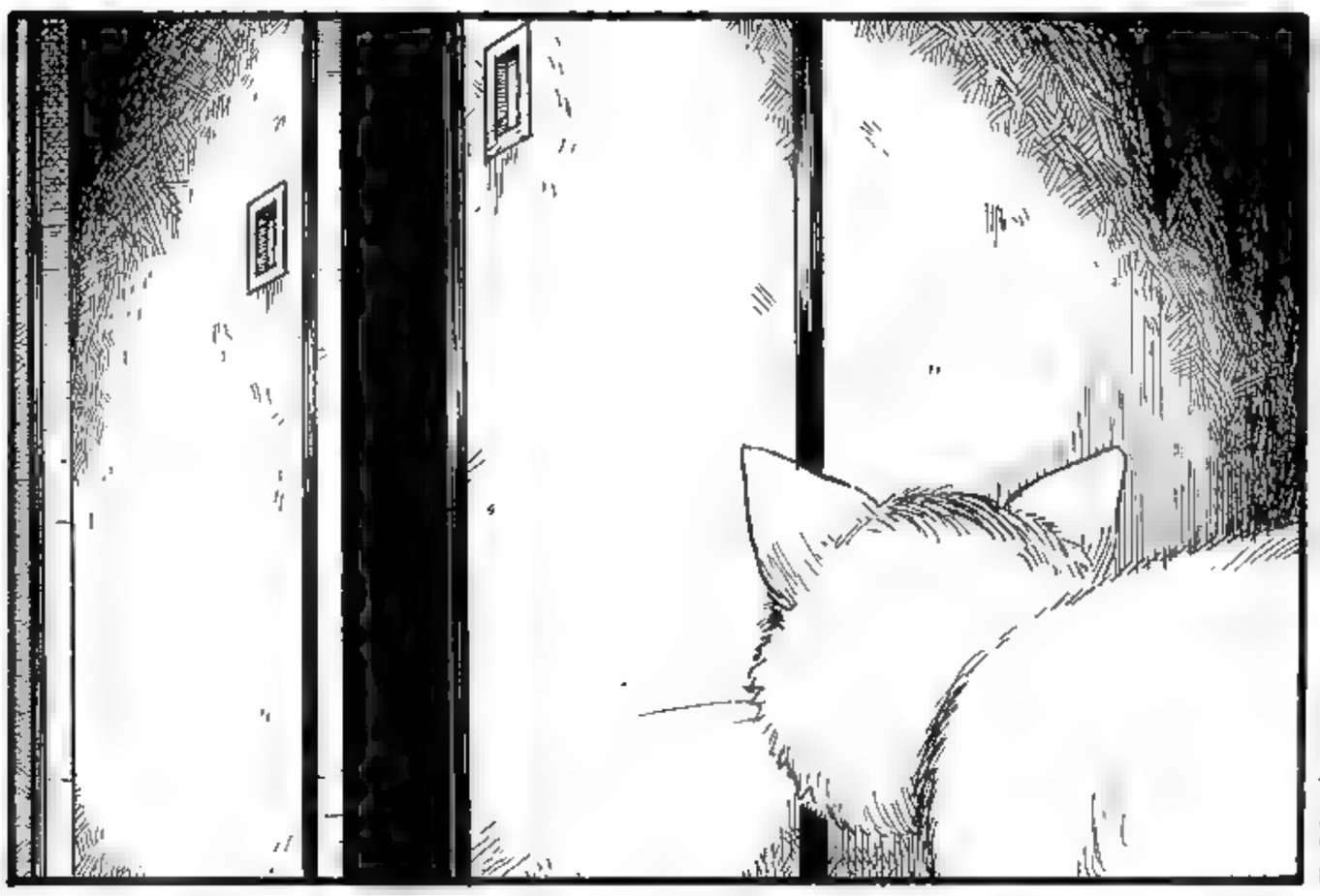
A FEW DAYS LATER

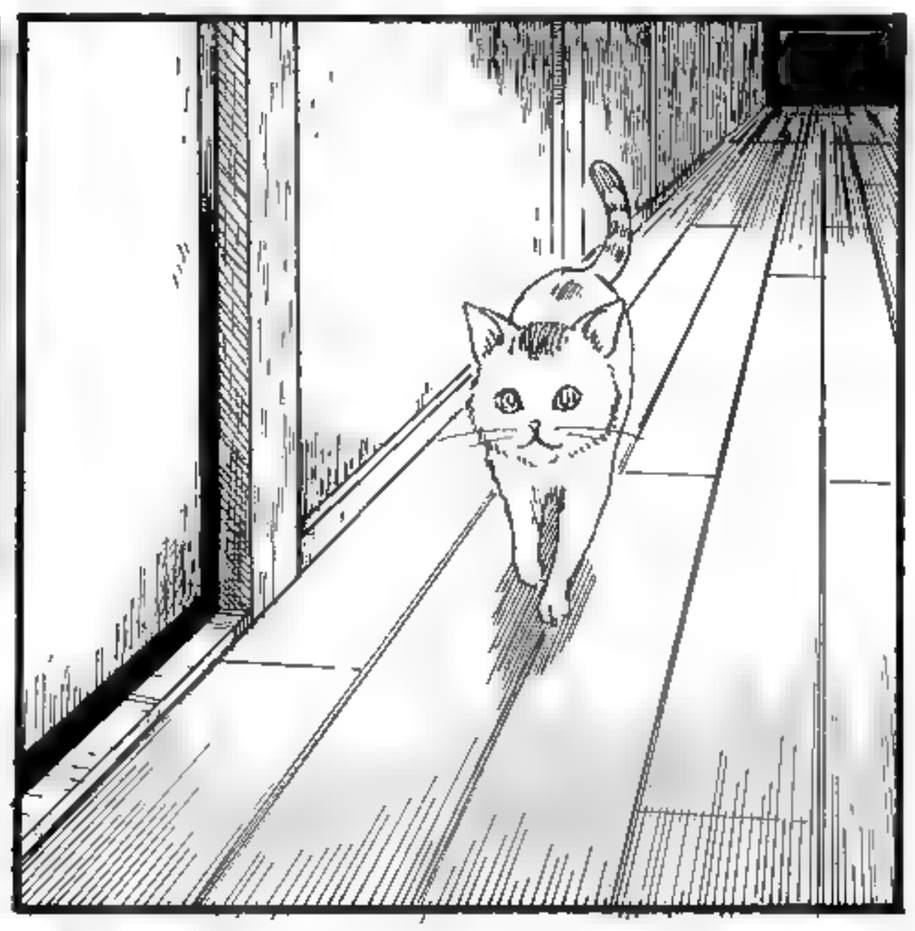
SHE'S GOING TO EXPLORE THE HOUSE NOW?

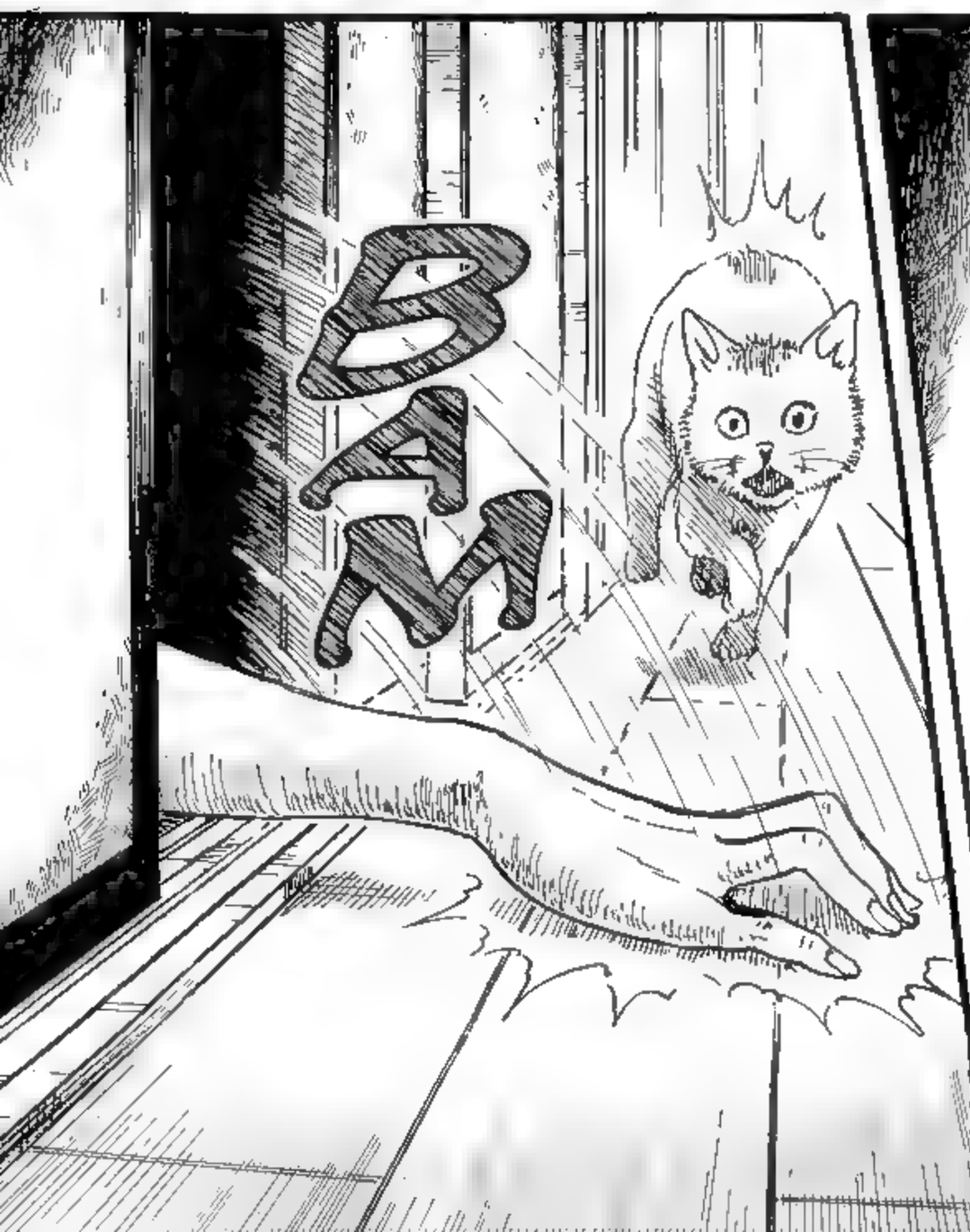
OH!

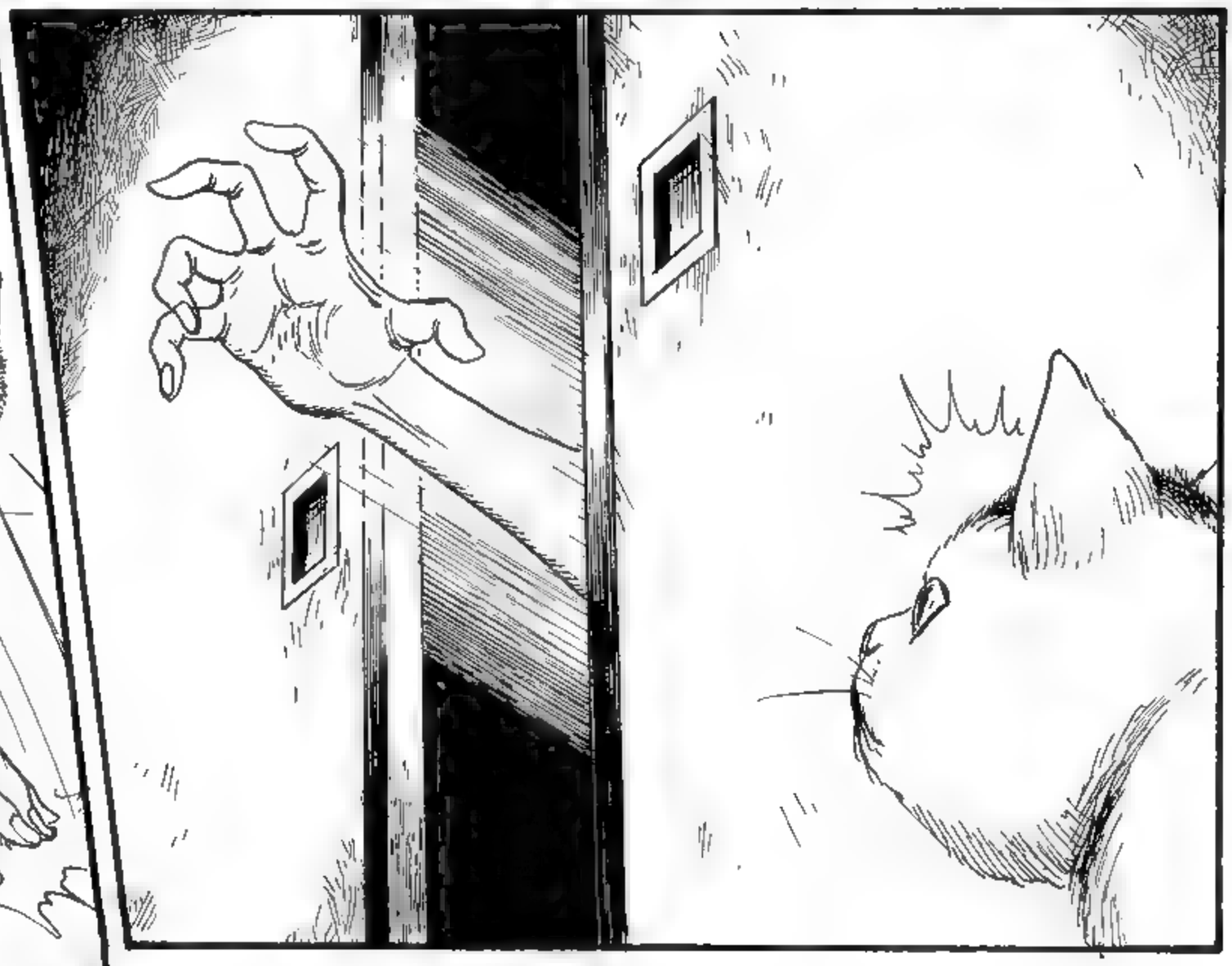
MEEEAAH











NGGH!

SHWUK SHWUK

HEH HEH HEH!

GASHK GASHK

COME HERE, GALLON.

OKAY, COME ON.

GASHK

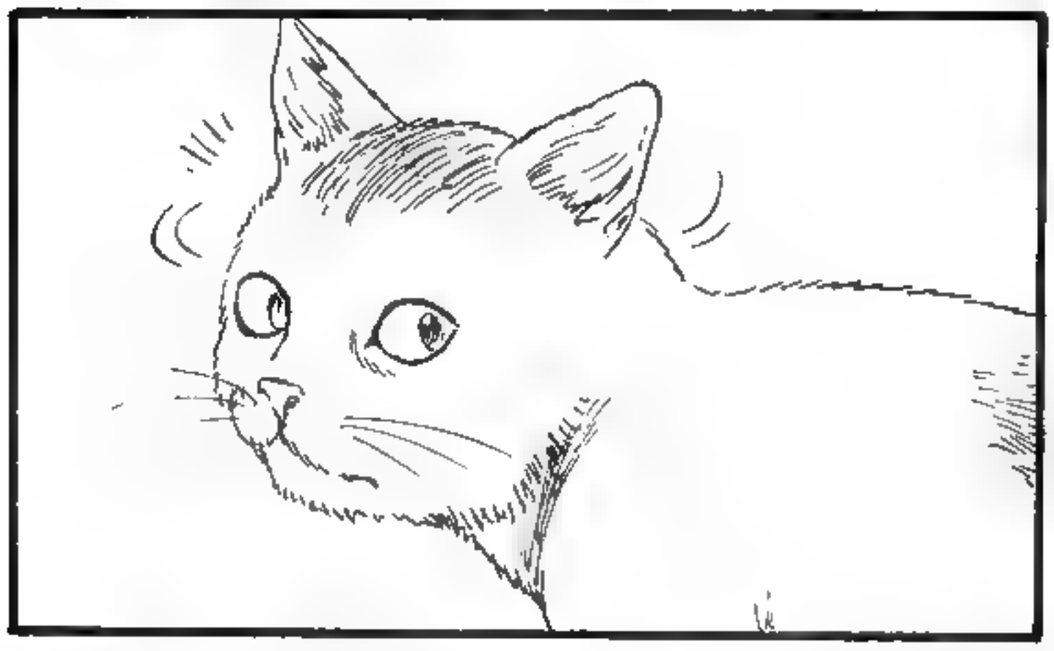
GASHK

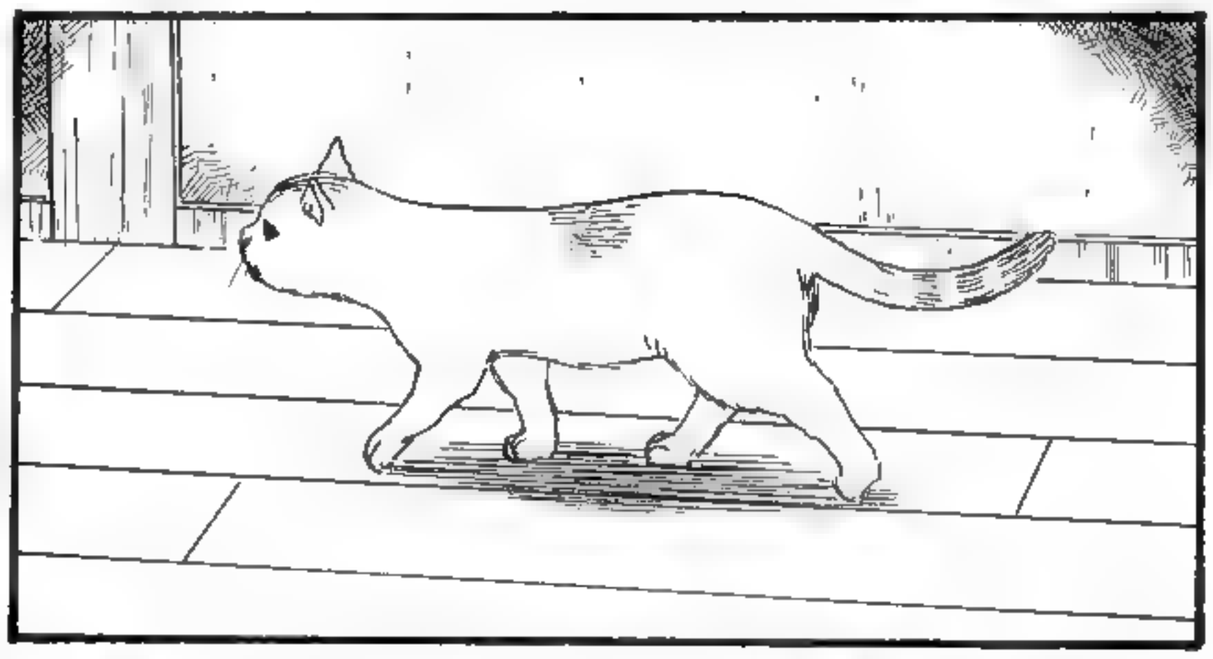
PFFT

TATUNK

GADIK GADIK

TAK TAK TAKK TAKK TAK TAK





HEE HEE HEE HEE!

SLAP

SLAP

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR SCOFF-ING AT MY MIGHTY SELF!

HOW D'YOU LIKE THAT?!

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!

SOICHI!

SLAP SLAP SLAP

AAAH!

THUD

SLAP

AAAH!

LEAP

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

SHE REALLY GOT YOU, HM?

HIC! HIC!

EEEEEEEE!

IS SOICHI OKAY?!

MOM, I'M WORRIED. YOU ALWAYS SEE THOSE CASES WHERE THE GUY STARTS OFF ABUSING ANIMALS AND ENDS UP BECOMING A MURDERER, RIGHT?

THAT'S ANIMAL ABUSE !!

DON'T YOU EVER DO THAT AGAIN, SOICHI!!

IT'LL RIP US APART, YOU KNOW?

IF HE GROWS UP LIKE THAT AND DOES SOMETHING, WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO OUR FAMILY?!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU BABY HIM LIKE THAT! THAT'S WHY SOICHI'S TURNED OUT THIS WAY!!

I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

NGH! YOU CAN TALK ALL YOU WANT, KOICHI.

I'LL CURSE YOU.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT OUR PRECIOUS COLLON BEING TORTURED BY SOICHI AGAIN, I CAN'T STAND IT!

PURR PURR PURR PURR

LISTEN! HE CAN'T LOVE ANIMALS, AND HE CAN'T LOVE PEOPLE. HE'S A DISASTER.

WE HAVE TO FIX HIS TWISTED PERSONALITY NOW BEFORE THINGS GET REALLY BAD!!

ALL OF YOU, BE CUUUUURSED!

BE CUUUU-URSED!

I'LL CURSE YOOO-OUUU!

I'LL CURSE YOOO-OOUU!

AH!

CRACK

OKAY, HERE.

HEY, SAYURI, LET ME HOLD HER, TOO!

HEH HEH HEH!

HM?

I JUST GOT A SHOCK.

I GOT A SHOCK BEFORE, TOO.

OH, JUST STATIC, PROB-ABLY.

THAT'S TOTALLY MY CURSE TAKING SHAPE.

HEH HEH HEH... NOT STATIC, YOU FOOLS.

HM?

GASHK

GASHK

YEAH, YOU GUYS JUST WATCH...

THIS CURSE IS ONLY THE BEGIN-NING.

BE CURSED.

HEH HEH HEH. BE CURSED.

COL-LOOOON!

COL-LON!

SAYURI, WHERE'D COLLON GO?

HM? SHE WAS JUST HERE A MINUTE AGO.

COLLON... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MRAR

?

MRAR

MRAR

MRAR

HEH HEH HEH. WHAT A CUTIE ...

KOICHI, LOOK!! THAT CAT TOY!

AH !!

SOICHI? WHEN'D YOU GET A CAT TOY—

IT'S REAL, TOO. NOW THIS STRAY CAT IS MY SLAVE.

KEE SHEE SHEE. IT IS.

IT'S A DEAD SNAKE !!

WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?! YOU'LL BE HAUNTED BY THE SNAKE !!

IDIOT! GO THROW THAT THING AWAY!

KEE SHEE SHEE SHEE! LET IT HAUNT ME IF IT CAN.

AAAAH!

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

UGOH

SNAP

KOICHI, DO SOME-THING!

GROSS! DON'T EAT THAT, COLLON!

RIP RIP

THE END

WHOA!

WHERE'D YOU FIND SUCH A HUGE CENTIPEDE?!

COLLON—!!

EEAAAAH!

YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT IT.

SAYURI, THIS IS THE TRUE NATURE OF A CAT, THOUGH.

HONESTLY. COLLON'S BEEN WEIRD LATELY. WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?!

SUUUUUUUU

GASHK GASHK

I...

I GUESS ...

SHRED

SHRED

THE NEXT DAY

AH! COLLON!

STOP THAT!!

...WELL, THAT'S WHAT CATS DO. ALL WE CAN DO IS REPLACE THE SLIDING DOORS.

THE WHOLE HOUSE IS SCRATCHED UP.

THIS IS REALLY SOME-THING.

HEH HEH HEH. I'LL MAKE YOU TASTE EVEN MORE OF MY CURSES...

THEY HAVE NO IDEA THAT ALL THIS IS DUE TO MY MASTERFUL CURSE.

BUT SHE WASN'T DOING THIS STUFF UNTIL A LITTLE A WHILE AGO.

LOOK, KOICHI!

WHAT'S WRONG, SAYURI?!

COLLON'S BRINGING SOMETHING WEIRD AGAIN!!

EEE-AAAAAH!

AAH! DON'T EAT IT!!

RIP

RIP

C-COLLON... WHAT ON EARTH *IS* THAT THING?!

NEXT, GO BRING ME A LIVING INSECT FROM HELL.

OH, GALLON, I'VE UNDERES-TIMATED YOU.

THIS HAS TO BE ONE OF THOSE INSECTS THAT LIVE IN HELL.

W-WOW, GALLON...

PURR MRR

OH, GOOD GIRL.

O MUCH MUCH

AND IT'S NOT GALLON, IT'S COLLON!

DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!! THIS IS JUST SOME BUG FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY. A LOT OF BUGS ARE BEING IMPORTED TO JAPAN THESE DAYS.

MY MIGHTY CURSE IS GRADUALLY TAKING SHAPE.

HEH HEH HEH. THE CURSE...

TAK TAK TAK

COME HERE, COLLON!

SO THAT SHE DOESN'T EAT ANY-THING WEIRD.

WE'RE TRYING TO KEEP COLLON FROM GOING OUTSIDE.

HEY...

WHY IS THE WHOLE HOUSE ALL SHUT UP?

WHAT THE—FIRST THE DOORS AND POSTS GET ALL SCRATCHED UP, AND NOW WE'RE ON LOCKDOWN?

IF WE OPEN A WINDOW SHE'LL GET OUT, THOUGH.

BUT THE AIR'S REALLY STAGNANT.

HEY...

...

WE NEED TO CLEAN IT.

THAT'S COLLON'S LITTERBOX.

...

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

WHAT *IS* THAT?

LOOK. SOME-THING'S FLOATING AROUND IN THE AIR.

WHERE'D COLLON GO?

I CAN'T STAND THIS. HON, OPEN THE STORM SHUTTERS.

I KNOW CATS SHED, BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH.

KLATTER

AH-CHOO!

IT'S COLLON'S FUR.

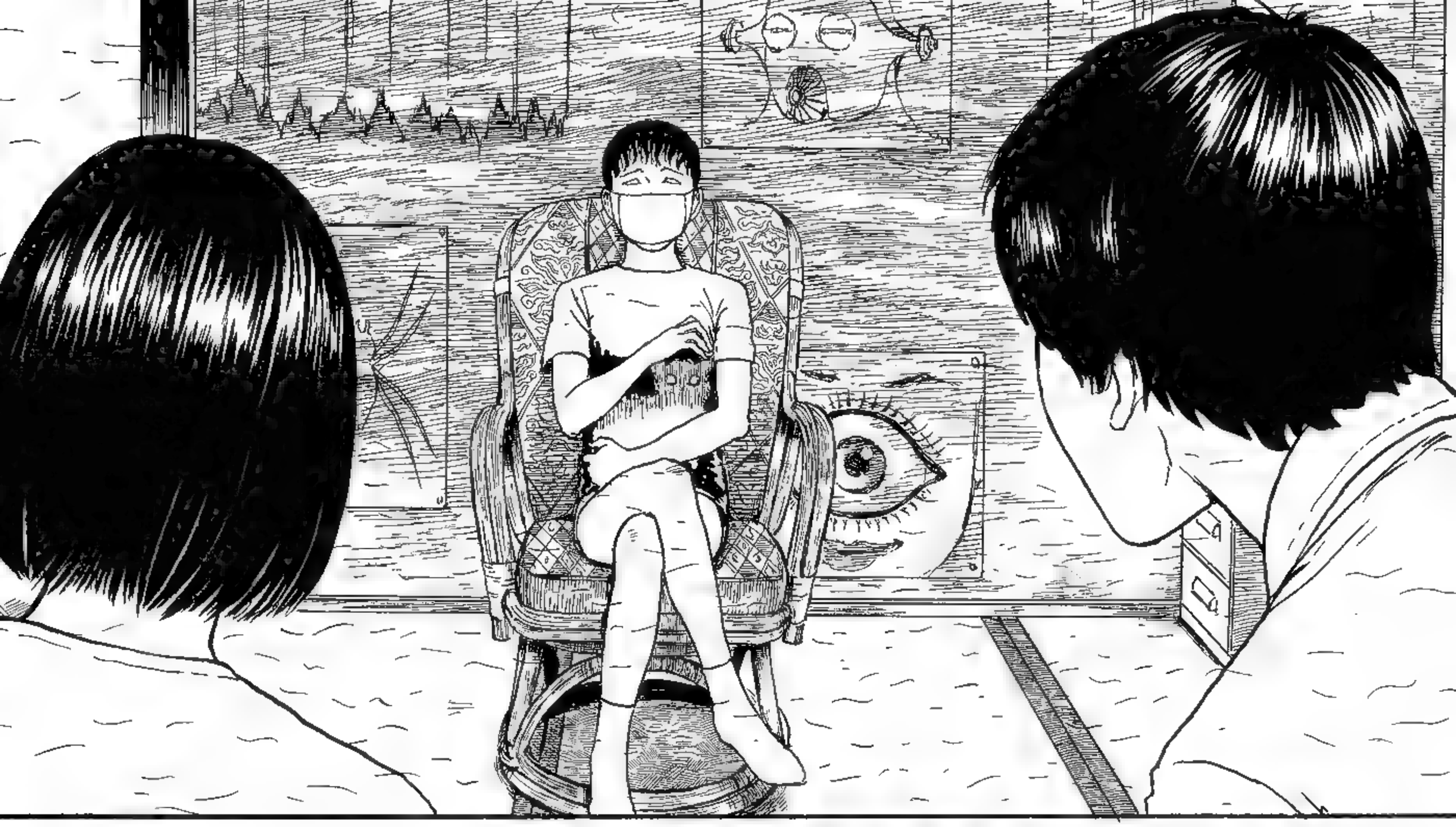
SOICHI !

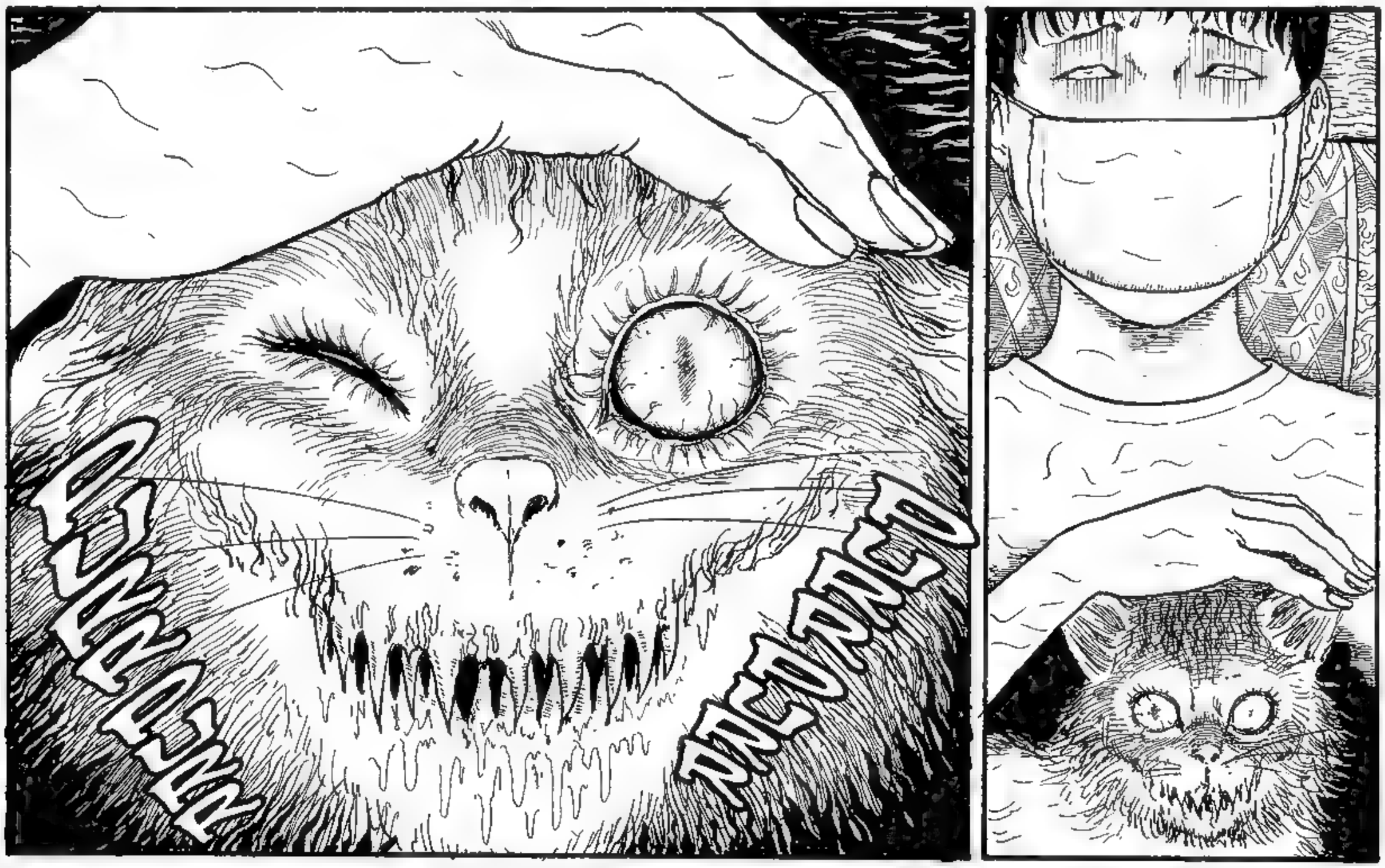
...MAYBE SOICHI'S ROOM?

SHE'S GONE. WHERE'D SHE GET TO?

COL-LOOOON !

COL-LON!

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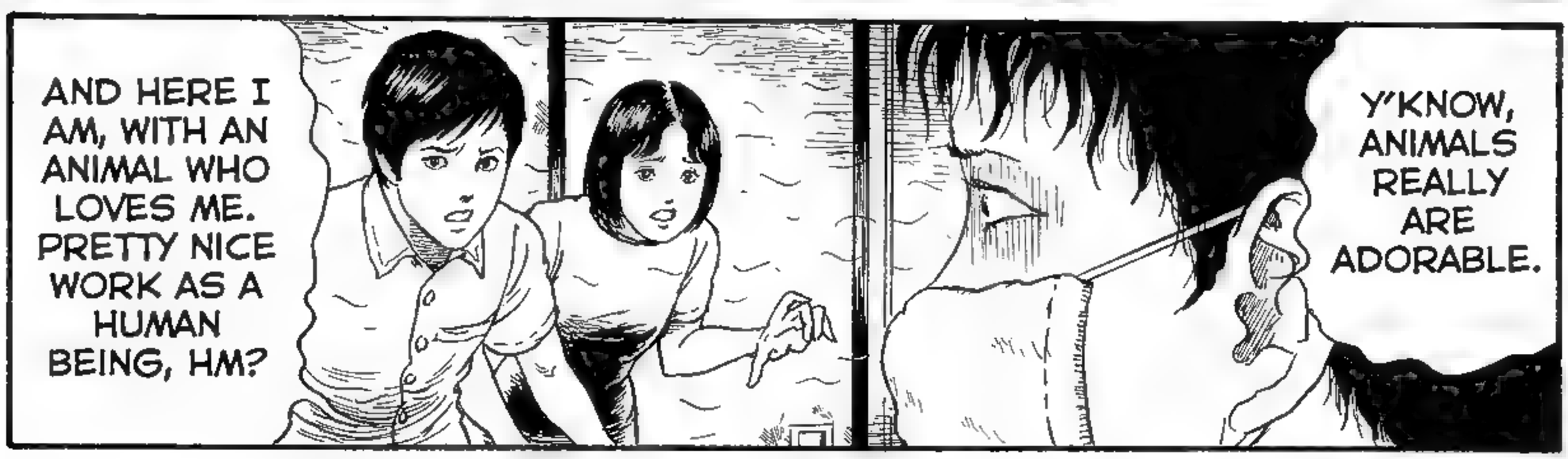

AND HERE I AM, WITH AN ANIMAL WHO LOVES ME. PRETTY NICE WORK AS A HUMAN BEING, HM?
Y'KNOW, ANIMALS REALLY ARE ADORABLE.

SKRTCH SKRTCH

SKRTCH SKRTCH SKRTCH SKRTCH

SKRTCH SKRTCH

AH-CHOO!

BEWAAAH!

HM, COLLON? COME HERE.

THIS IS WEIRD. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

C-COLLON... WHAT ON EARTH IS WRONG WITH YOU?

HISSS

NOOOO!

B-
BUT
...

GRRR

WHAT DID YOU DO TO COLLON ?!

SOICHI !

I SAID, GIVE HER!!

DON'T WANNA!

GIVE HER HERE!

CRACKLE

WHAT WAS THAT?!

HEEEE! GALLON!

GET AWAY FROM ME!!

AAAH!

CRACKLE CRACKLE

SNAP SNAP

AAAH!

BO-ZO

TUNK

EEAAAH !!

CRACKLE

PURR MRAAAR

KOICHI, HELP ME!

K—

HANG ON A SEC, SOICHI!!

HEEEEE !

HELP MEEEEE!

C-CALM DOWN, SOICHI!

EVERY-ONE! RUN!!

SOICHI! CALM DOWN!

WHAT'S GOING ON, KOICHI?!

CALM DOWN, SOICHI!!

EEAAAAH!

MEEEOW

PURR PURR

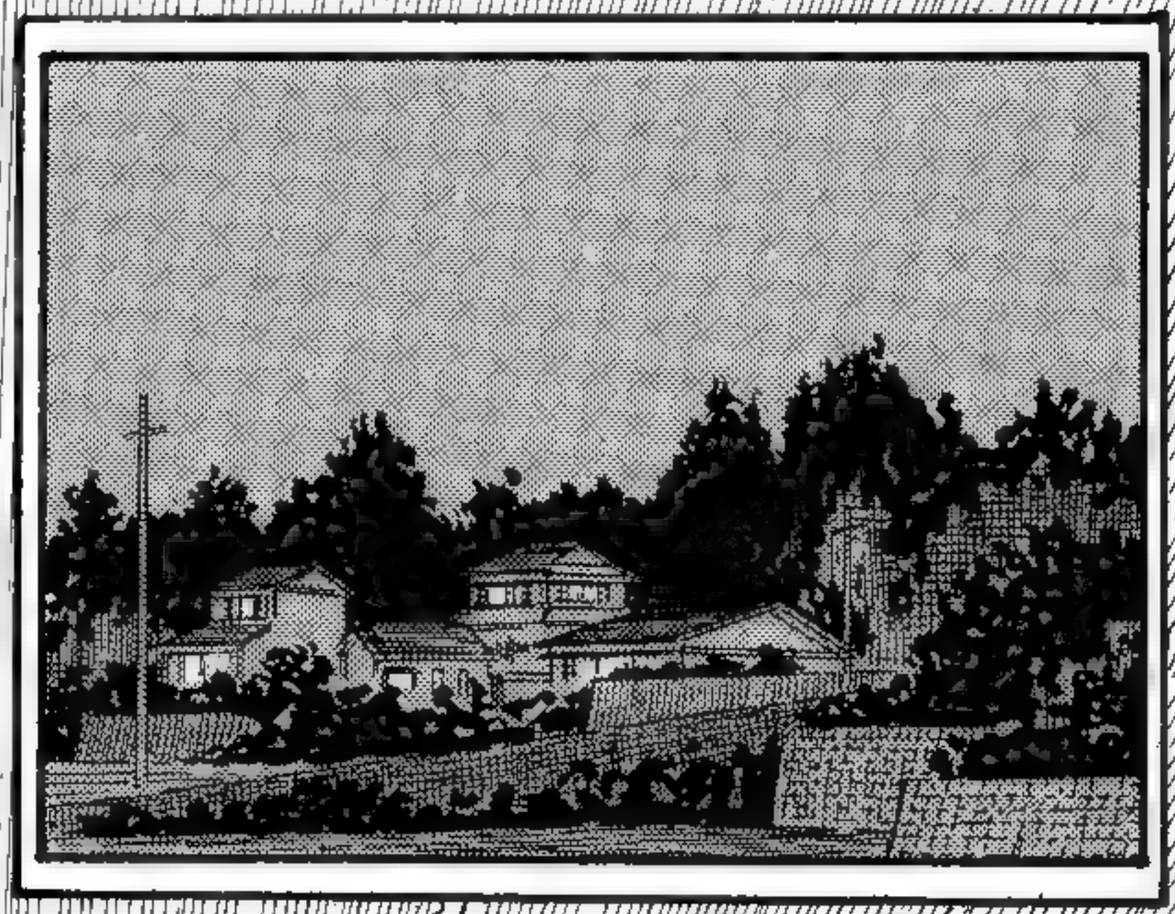
CHOMP

THEY'RE RUNNING OFF AND LEAVING ME.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...

SOICHI! CALM DOWN!

HUFF HUFF



KA

BOOM

GOOD-NESS. HE'S LUCKY HE WAS ONLY HURT, HM?

I HEARD A BOY GOT STRUCK BY IT. HE WAS HURT PRETTY BADLY.

FUKAZAWA HOSPITAL

THERE WAS LIGHTNING LAST NIGHT.

EVEN THOUGH THE SKY WAS CLEAR ENOUGH TO SEE THE STARS.

THANKS TO THAT ELECTRIC SHOCK.

COLLON'S BACK TO NORMAL.

KOCHY KOCHY

BE CUUUUURSED ! BE CUUUUURSED !

SHUT UP...

SOICHI? DOES IT HURT?

SOICHI'S BELOVED PET / END

合鏡谷にて

IN MIRROR VALLEY

IF YOU FOLLOW THE K RIVER— SQUEEZED BETWEEN TWO PREFECTURES— UPSTREAM, YOU EVENTUALLY ARRIVE AT A LONESOME RAVINE.

AND IN WINTER, THE SUN BARELY SHINES ON ITS STEEP SLOPES, MERE MINUTES A DAY.

DURING THESE FEW MINUTES, YOU CAN SEE SOMETHING GLITTERING LIKE DIAMOND DUST ON BOTH SIDES OF THE VALLEY.

KNZCH

KNZCH

...HAD TOWNS THAT WERE BASICALLY FACING EACH OTHER.

SO BOTH SIDES OF THIS STEEP, LONELY VALLEY...

DUNNO. IT'S BEEN MAYBE DECADES SINCE ANYONE LIVED HERE.

HEY, OKAMURA, WHEN WAS THIS VILLAGE ABANDONED?

BUT WHAT'S ALL THIS GLASS SCATTERED EVERYWHERE?

IT'S LIKE SHARDS OF A MIRROR, HUH?

THIS WHOLE SCENE IS SO WEIRD.

THERE'S A VILLAGE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, TOO.

WHAT ARE THOSE GIANT BILLBOARDS ALL OVER THE PLACE?

THEY LOOK LIKE STAINLESS STEEL. BUT THEY'VE BEEN THERE SO LONG, THEY'RE ALL RUSTED NOW.

THEY'RE FACING THE OPPOSITE BANK.

ALTHOUGH THEY'RE ALL BROKEN NOW.

AND SPEAKING OF WEIRD... ALL THESE MIRRORS. BIG, SMALL, EVERYWHERE.

THAT'S THE KEY TO THE WHOLE THING.

WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT OF TURNING MIRRORS AGAINST THE OPPOSITE VILLAGE, THOUGH?

MAYBE, WAY BACK WHEN...

...THESE GIANT BILLBOARD THINGS ACTED SOMETHING LIKE MIRRORS.

EVENTUALLY, THOUGH, THEY HAD A BIG FIGHT AND SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS. EACH GROUP BUILT THEIR OWN VILLAGE ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE RIVER.

THE CLAN WAS MOSTLY RELATED BY BLOOD.

...A CLAN RAN AWAY TO THIS VALLEY AND BUILT THIS TOWN.

RUMOR HAS IT THAT A LONG, LONG TIME AGO...

AND NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE.

BUT A FEW DECADES AGO, BOTH OF THE VILLAGES WERE SUDDENLY ABANDONED.

AND THAT HOSTILE RELATIONSHIP CONTINUED WELL INTO THE LAST CENTURY.

THE TWO SETTLEMENTS CALLED EACH OTHER DEVIL'S GATE AND DEVIL'S BACK GATE.

UH-HUH...

WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN...

I THINK ALL OF THESE MIRRORS ARE THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY.

I MEAN, A HUGE MIRROR LIKE THIS.

WHAT'RE WE DOING?

CAREFUL CARRYING THIS.

BUT... I FEEL LIKE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET SOME KIND OF CLUE.

I'M NOT SURE MYSELF.

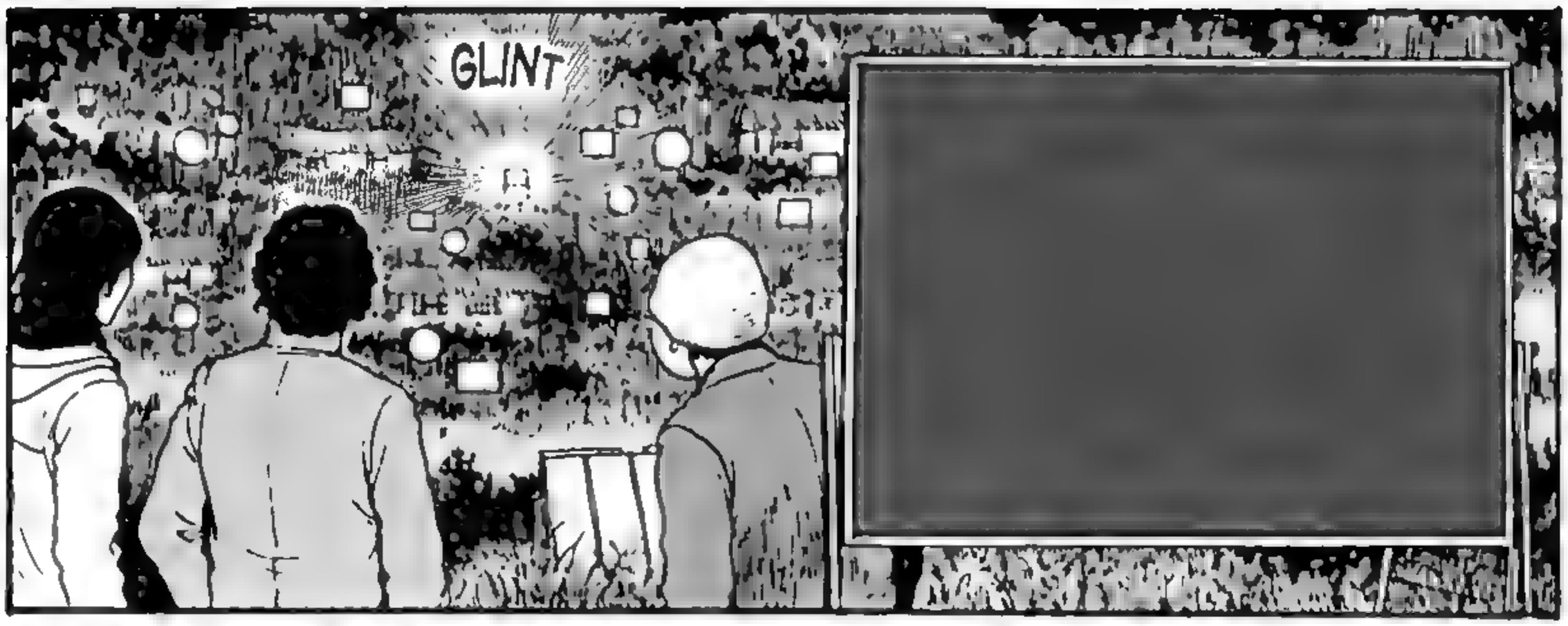
WHAT'RE WE GOING TO FIND OUT DOING THAT?

WE SET UP MIRRORS FACING EACH OTHER ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE VALLEY AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

AN EXPERI-MENT.

YEAH, SHOULD BE.

IS THIS GOOD?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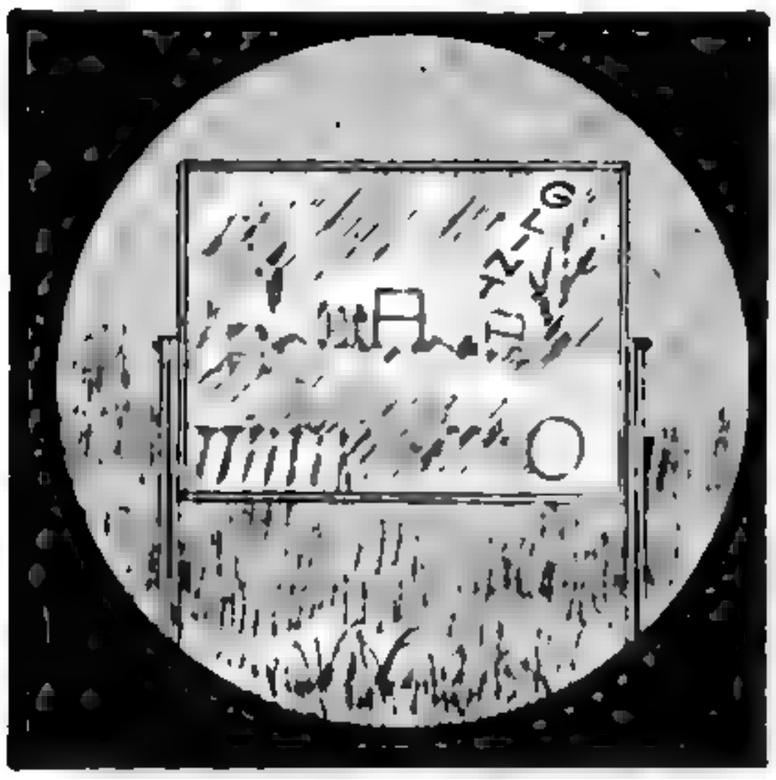
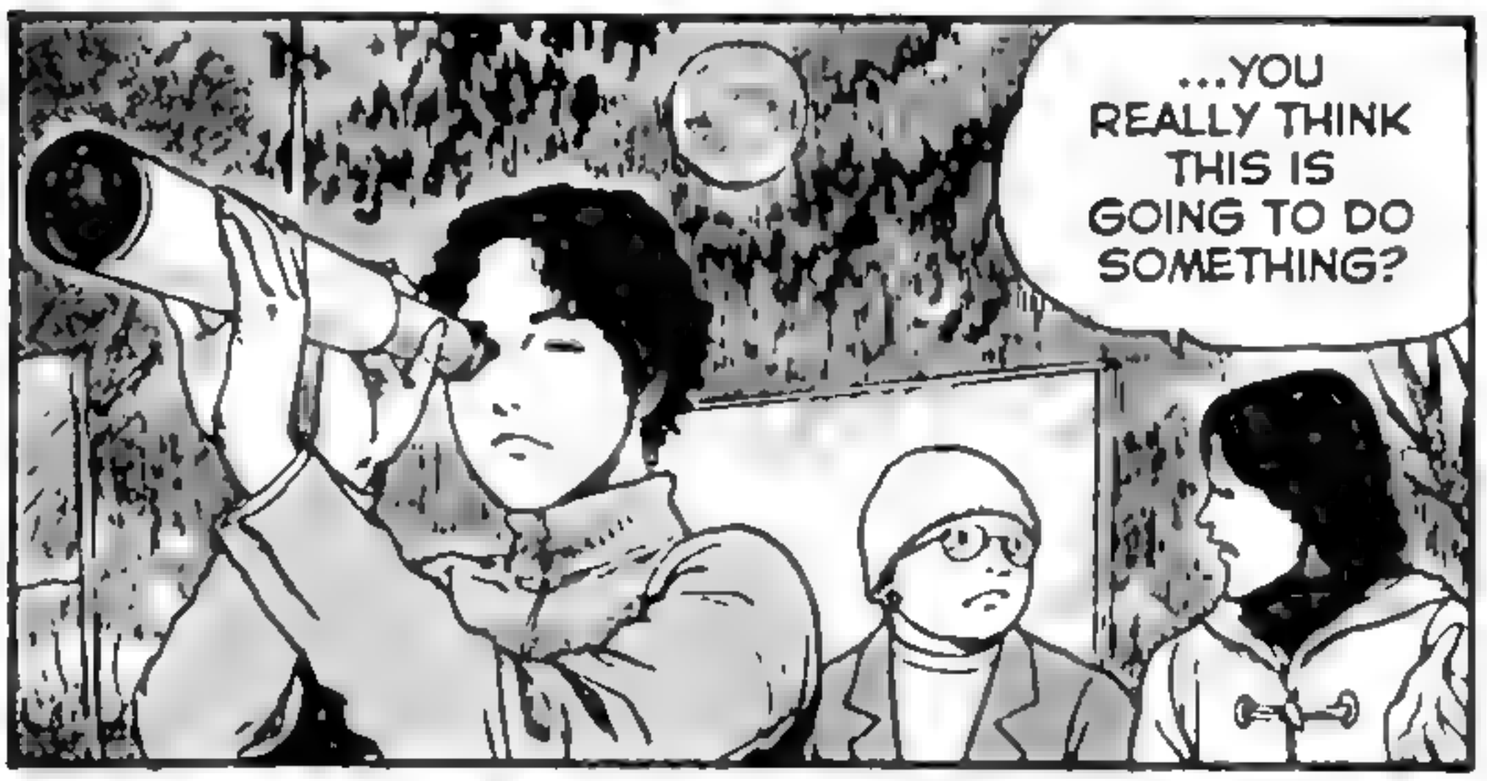
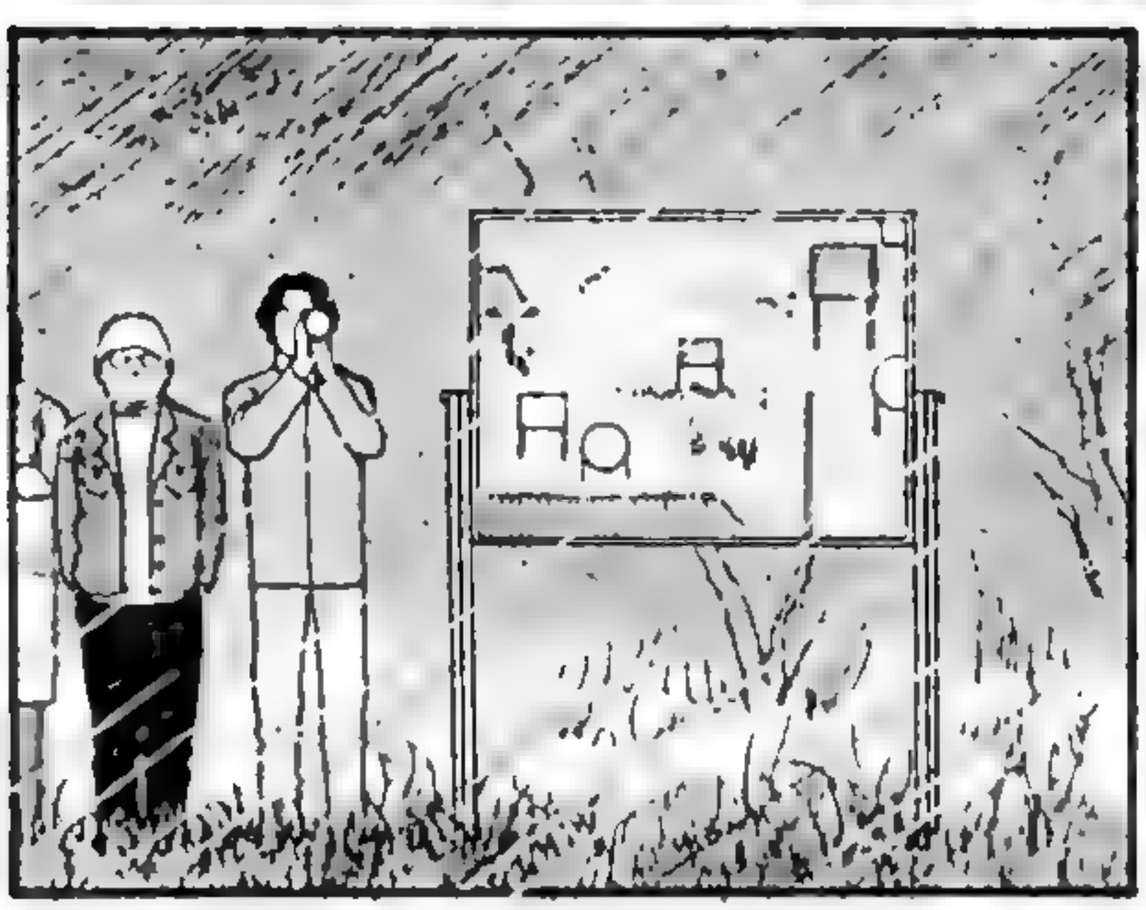
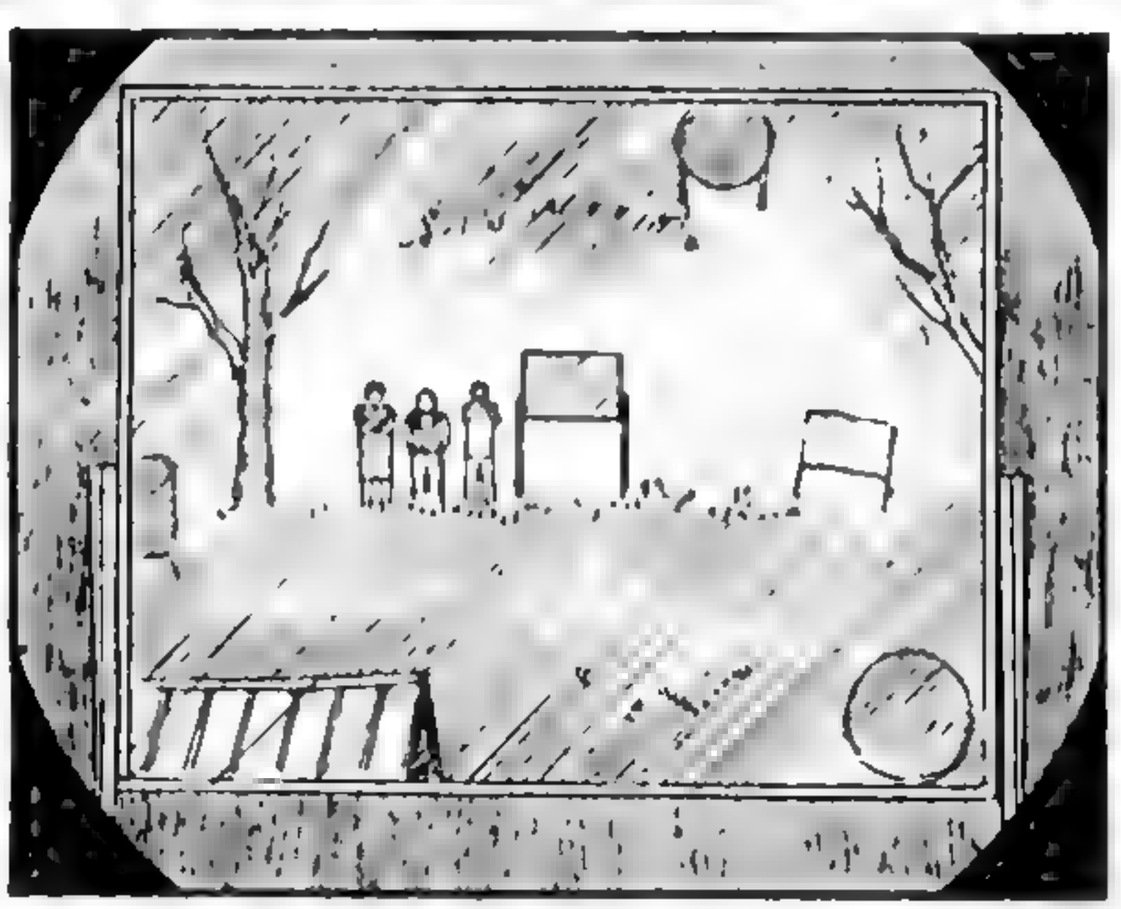



...YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS GOING TO DO SOMETHING?





WOOOOV
HM?
WOOOON

WOOON
WOOON

WOOOZ

WOOOZ
IT SOUNDS LIKE AN ECHO?
WHAT'S THAT NOISE ...?

WOW
WOOO

FLASH

FLASH

WOOON

WOOON

WOOON

WOOON

WOOON

DAMMIT. THOSE DEVIL'S BACK GATE BASTARDS ...

HEEEEY, KOICHIRO!

WHAT ?!

ONE OF THE GUYS FROM DEVIL'S BACK GATE SNUCK IN HERE.

WHAT'S GOING ON, SHI-CHIRO?

GOT IT!

COME HELP!

WE'RE GOING AFTER HIM NOW.

HAAH

HAAH

KSH KSH KSH

HEY! HE'S RUNNING THAT WAY!

WE'RE ORIGINALLY FROM THE SAME PLACE, AREN'T WE? I WANT TO BE FRIENDS.

W-WAIT, PLEASE. I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT WITH ALL OF YOU.

!

STOP! YOU'VE GOT NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN.

WHY WOULD A GUY FROM DEVIL'S BACK GATE COME HERE?!

SHUT UP!

KKK

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!!

STOP... PLEASE STOP.

UNH!

S- STOP!

DIG DIG

KHAH

AAAH!

AAAH!

PLEASE STOP!

HAAH

HAAH HAAH

AH! HE'S GETTING AWAY!

ARE YOU HERE?

TOYOMI!

HAAH

HAAH

I MISSED YOU!

HIDEO.

TOYOMI!

HIDEO! OVER HERE.

THE LOOK THEY GIVE EACH OTHER IS INTENSE, LIKE COLD GLASS.

YOUR VILLAGE AND MY VILLAGE HATE EACH OTHER.

CAN'T WE JUST BE TOGETH-ER?

HIDEO... HOW LONG WILL WE HAVE TO SNEAK AROUND LIKE THIS?

WE'LL RUN AWAY TO-GETHER !!

THEN LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE.

I'M NOT AFRAID !!

COWARD !!

WHAT? YOU'RE TOO AFRAID ?!

YEAH... BUT...

SO *THAT'S* WHAT WAS GOING ON.

AH!

REALLY?! I'M SO HAPPY.

FINE. WE'LL LEAVE TOGETHER !!

K-
KOICHIRO
...

TOYOMI! DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SHAME?! I WON'T LET YOU ELOPE!

AUNH!

THUD

AUNH!

THUD

STOP!

STOP IT!

AH!

YOU!! GET AWAY FROM MY BABY SISTER!

WOOON

WOOON

STOOO-
OOP!

STOOO-
OOOP!

I'LL FIND SOMEONE BETTER FOR YOU IN THE VILLAGE.

FORGET THAT GUY, TOYOMI.

SHWK

S-STOP IT! DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!!

!

IT'S NOT LIKE TOYOMI CAN LIVE OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE.

RIDICU-LOUS ...

YES, DAD.

WHAT DID YOU SAY, KOICHIRO? TOYOMI, ELOPING?

OUR PEOPLE ...

OUR EYES HAVE A DISTINCT FEATURE.

WE'RE INEVITABLY SEEN AS HERETICS ELSEWHERE. WE ALWAYS COME CRAWLING BACK.

OUR CLAN'S NOT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE.

THEY WERE PERSE-CUTED...

...AND CHASED TO THIS PLACE.

BECAUSE OF THIS PECULIAR NATURE, OUR ANCESTORS WERE NOT ACCEPTED BY THE REST OF SOCIETY.

WHEN WE HATE ANOTHER PERSON, OUR GAZE MAKES THEM FEEL A STRONG PHYSICAL DISCOMFORT.

AT SOME POINT, BOTH SIDES PUT UP MIRRORS FACING THE OPPOSITE SIDE.

TO REFLECT THE LOOKS OF HATE...

EVER SINCE, OUR PEOPLE HAVE LIVED ISOLATED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD. BUT EVENTUALLY, THERE WAS AN INTERNAL SPLIT.

WITH OUR DESPISING GAZES, WE ATTACK EACH OTHER WITHOUT MERCY ACROSS THIS NARROW RAVINE.

WOOON WOOON

THEY SAY IT'S THE SOUND OF THOSE HATEFUL GAZES BEING BOUNCED BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE VALLEY.

IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY, YOU CAN HEAR IT. A SOUND LIKE AN ECHO...

WOOON WOOON

TOYOMI...

...

A LOVERS' SUICIDE.

BODIES!

...NOT LONG AFTER THAT.

WOOON

WOOON

THE GHOSTS OF TOYOMI AND HIDEO STARTED APPEAR-ING...

TOYOMI...

THAT DAMNED DEVIL'S BACK GATE BASTARD ...

NO. I CAN'T FORGIVE THIS... I CAN'T.

STOP IT... STOP. YOU WENT SO FAR AS TO DIE WITH A MAN FROM DEVIL'S BACK GATE.

WOOOON

DEVIL'S BACK GATE!

WOOOON

DEVIL'S BACK GATE!

DAMNED DEVIL'S GATE!

DAMN YOU, DEVIL'S GATE!

HIDEO! DON'T MAKE US SUFFER...

STOP, HIDEO! DON'T TOUCH THAT DEVIL'S GATE WOMAN!

...IN THE VALLEY EVERY NIGHT.

THE APPARI-TIONS LOVED EACH OTHER PASSION-ATELY...

DAMN YOU, DEVIL'S GATE!!

DAMN YOU, DEVIL'S BACK GATE!

(90)

WOOO

WOOOON

WOOOON

WOOOON

WOOOON

IT WAS AN UNPRE-CEDENTED INCREASE IN HATRED.

CRACK CRACK CRACK

...

WOOOZ

ZOOOOZ

WOOOO

WOOOON

KRSH

SMASH

AAAAAAH!

WOOOON

KRSH

SMASH

SMASH

EEEAAAAAAH!

WOOOON

POK

WOOOON

EEEEEE!

EEEAAAAAAH!

WOOOON!

I-I—?!

WOOON

AH!!

WOOON

IT KEEPS GETTING LOUDER.

H-HEY, OKAMURA! WHAT'S THIS CREEPY ECHOING SOUND?!

WOOON

WOOON

W-WAS I...

...SEE-ING A VISION?!

WOOON

THIS...IS THE SOUND OF THEIR GAZES REVERBERATING. THE SOUND OF THE VILLAGERS' HATRED REACHING A MAXIMUM PITCH...

BUT WHY NOW...

WOOON

WOOON

WOOO

I CAN SEE IT, TOO. WHY...?

MINE TOO. MY EYES... I'M GLARING...

WHY ARE MY EYES SO FULL OF HATRED ...?

M-MY FACE...

CRACK

...IS EATING INTO US.

THE RADIATION OF THE GAZES THE VILLAGERS LET LOOSE IN THIS VALLEY...

CRACK

SMASH

CRACK

CRACK

CLINK CLINK

CRACK CRACK

THE VALLEY SCATTERED WITH INNUMERABLE FRAGMENTS OF GLASS...

GLINT GLINT

ITS NAME, MIRROR VALLEY. EVEN NOW, IT SHINES MYSTERIOUSLY, SILENTLY.

I DON'T WANT TO BE A GHOST

IT HAPPENED ON MY WAY HOME FROM WORK.

VRRRRR

WAS IT MERELY COINCIDENCE IN THE END THAT I MET HER?

...I STILL HATE TRAVELING THESE MOUNTAIN ROADS AT NIGHT.

I MAY BE IN A CAR, BUT...

VRRR

IT'S SO LATE TODAY.

ALWAYS FEEL LIKE A GHOST'LL POP OUT OR SOME-THING.

VRRRRR

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHY IS SHE WAY OUT HERE AT THIS HOUR?

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

KACHAV

SKREE

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

UM.

...

A-A GHOST?!

AH!

ARE YOU HURT?

Y-YOU'RE COVERED IN BLOOD.

AND I TOUCHED HER WITH MY OWN HAND.

...N-NO. GHOSTS DON'T ACTUALLY EXIST...

...

...DON'T VANISH...

PLEASE ...

I GOT HER INTO THE CAR AND HEADED FOR THE HOSPITAL.

VRRRRRR

DOCTOR. HOW IS SHE?

YAMA HOSPITAL

KACHAK

WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?!

IT'S NOT HER BLOOD.

WHAT?! BUT HER FACE IS COVERED IN BLOOD?

OH. SHE'S NOT ACTUALLY HURT.

THEY QUES-TIONED ME, TOO, BUT LET ME GO PRETTY QUICKLY.

OFFICERS ARRIVED SOON ENOUGH AND TOOK HER AWAY.

I CALLED THE POLICE. THERE MIGHT BE SOME-THING MORE GOING ON HERE.

I HAVE NO IDEA. SHE WON'T SAY ANY-THING, EITHER.

THAT'S PRETTY CREEPY, HON.

IT WAS QUITE A NIGHT.

SO THAT'S IT, BASI-CALLY.

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, YUINA.

IT'S BECAUSE WE BOUGHT A HOUSE WAY OUT HERE IN THE SUBURBS THAT YOU HAD THIS WEIRD ENCOUNTER.

HUH? A WOMAN?

SHE'S REALLY PRETTY. WHO IS SHE?

SHIGERU? A WOMAN'S HERE TO SEE YOU.

D-ZO DOZO

A FEW DAYS LATER

UM. DO WE KNOW EACH OTHER?

I'M REALLY IN YOUR DEBT.

YOU HELPED ME OUT RECENTLY ON THE MOUNTAIN ROAD.

...THE WOMAN FROM THE OTHER NIGHT!

HUH...? OH! YOU'RE ...

SO THERE I WAS MADE UP LIKE A GHOST, JUST STUCK... I WAS SO SCARED.

I WAS FILMING AN INDEPENDENT MOVIE WITH SOME FRIENDS, AND I GOT LEFT BEHIND.

...SHE SECRETLY HANDED ME A SCRAP OF PAPER.

WHEN THIS BEAUTIFUL WOMAN— MISAKI— WAS LEAVING...

BUT YOU REALLY GAVE ME A SHOCK THERE.

WHAT? WAS THAT WHAT HAPPENED? HA HA HA!

I'd like to see you again.
My cell:
090-[illegible]-0107

OH... IT'S NOTH-ING.

SHIGERU? WHAT'S WRONG?

AFTER THAT, WE STARTED MEETING IN SECRET.

HOTEL RENOIR

HOTEL RENOIR

ANYONE WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU.

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIKE YOU...

HEY? WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ME ANY-WAY ?

I'M SO HAPPY I GET TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

WHAT? SPIRITS?

I LIKE THAT YOU...HAVE A LOT OF SPIRITS WATCHING OVER YOU.

BUT WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ME?

HMM...

NO...

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

UH-HUH. I LOVE GUARDIAN SPIRITS.

YES... I CAN SEE THEM. YOUR GUARDIANS.

SO YOU LIKE ME BECAUSE I HAVE A LOT OF GUARDIAN SPIRITS?

SO SHE TURNED INTO A GHOST AND CAME TO FEED ME BREAST MILK.

BUT SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME.

IT'S BECAUSE... MY MOTHER WAS A GHOST.

SHE DIED WHEN I WAS STILL INSIDE HER... I WAS BORN FROM MY MOTHER'S DEAD BODY.

SO I CAN'T BE SATISFIED NOW UNLESS I HAVE THAT SUSTENANCE.

THANKS TO HER, I WAS ABLE TO GROW UP HEALTHY. BASICALLY I WAS RAISED BY FEEDING OFF OF A GHOST.

...

SUCK SUCK

THEY'RE ALL AROUND YOU. THESE GHOSTS...

LOOK CAREFULLY, SHIGERU.

...

...YOU SURE HAVE A WILD IMAGINATION.

WHAT TIME IS IT?!

CRAP!! I OVER-SLEPT!

LEAD

MYAH MYAH

AH!

HOTEL NOIR

...?!

MISAKI.

HEY.

I HAVE TO GET HOME.

W-
WHAT...

I TOLD YOU. WORK.

YOU WENT OFF AND LEFT ME WHILE I'M PREGNANT. I'M ASKING YOU WHERE YOU WERE!

YOU TURNED YOUR PHONE OFF, TOO, DIDN'T YOU?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE COMING HOME AT THIS HOUR! WHERE EXACTLY WERE YOU?!

A FRIEND.

CLAD

TELL ME. WHO IS IT?!

RRRR-ZZ

RRRR-ZZ

WHO IS IT?

RRRRRR-NG

SO WHEN CAN I SEE YOU AGAIN?

SORRY. I WAS IN A HURRY.

YOU'RE TERRIBLE, SHIGERU.

I MEAN, YOU JUST LEFT ME THERE ALONE AND WENT HOME BY YOURSELF.

BRRR BRRR

KLIK KLIK

MY WIFE'S STARTING TO GET SUSPI-CIOUS.

MISAKI... LET'S STOP THIS ALREADY.

I'M HOME!

BUT DISASTER STRUCK SWIFTLY.

IT'S BETTER THIS WAY. STILL, MISAKI...

WHAT WAS THE BLOOD ON HER FACE? IT WAS SO CREEPY...

SHE TOLD ME EVERY-THING.

YOU...

SHIGERU, HOW COULD YOU?!

IT WAS CARNAGE AFTER THAT.

NATURALLY, SHE WENT WILD. AND THEN FINALLY...

I'LL KILL YOU!! I'LL BOTH OF YOU!!

YUINA WAS ALREADY MENTALLY UNSTABLE DURING THE PREGNANCY.

...SHE KILLED HER-SELF...

...ALONG WITH THE CHILD INSIDE OF HER.

SHIGE-RU...

CHEER UP.

YOU STILL HAVE SEVERAL GUARDIAN SPIRITS LEFT.

WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

SHIGE-RU...

I WANT TO END THIS.

MISAKI, WILL YOU PLEASE GO HOME?

I EAT GHOSTS TO LIVE.

I GOT CLOSE TO YOU SO I COULD EAT YOUR GUARDIAN SPIRITS.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU MEAN.

...I HAVE GUARD-IAN SPIRITS LEFT?

BUT NOTHING IS AS DELICIOUS AS A GHOST.

YOU CAN BELIEVE ME OR NOT.

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?

MISAKI ...

THEY'RE FLYING AROUND THE ROOM.

YUINA AND THE BABY IN HER STOMACH...

YOU HAVE TWO NEW GHOSTS.

LOOK... CAN'T YOU SEE THEM?

I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET AWAY!

HO HO HO!

HEE HEE HEE! THEY LOOK SO TASTY.

SOUND-ING

GAAAH!

BOUND-ING

GOT YOU!

GRAB

GAAH

THUK

NGEEEEEEEEEH!

SPLRT

KNZUI

KNZUI

EEEEEEEEEEE!

MZUT MZUT

KRNCH

TH-THAT VOICE... IT'S HER. IT'S YUINA SCREAM-ING...

EEAAAAAAAH!

I-IT CAN'T BE...

EEEEEEEE!

SLRP SLRP SLRP

LICK LICK

HO HO HO!

HEE HEE HEE!

AND WHAT IS THAT BLOOD?!

TH-THIS IS INSANE... WHY WOULD I HEAR YUINA SCREAM-ING?

AH... AAAAAAAAH!

...AND DEVOURED MY GUARDIAN SPIRITS.

AFTER THAT, MISAKI OFTEN CAME TO ME...

NOW I'M IN THE HOSPITAL, ON THE VERGE OF DEATH.

HIGASHINO HOSPITAL

AFTER LIVING A HARD LIFE ON THE STREETS, I GOT SICK.

I GOT FIRED, LOST MY HOUSE.

THAT WAS WHEN FORTUNE STARTED TO ABANDON ME IN ALL KINDS OF WAYS.

HNNGH.

UNNNH.

...FOR ME TO BECOME A GHOST...

MISAKI IS HERE AGAIN TODAY. AND SHE'S LICKING HER LIPS, WAITING...

I DON'T WANT TO BE A GHOST / END

LIBRARY VISION
蔵書幻影
ぞうしょ げんえい

THE PERSON I MARRIED, GORO SHIRASAKI, LIVED IN A VERY LARGE MANSION.

THE MAJORITY OF THE MORE THAN 150,000 BOOKS IN THE COLLECTION WERE RARE BOOKS.

FOR GORO, THEY WERE A PRICELESS TREASURE.

EVERY ROOM OF IT WAS A LIBRARY, FILLED WITH HIS BOOK COLLECTION.

HE INHERITED ALL OF IT FROM HIS FATHER.

...HE SAID HE HAD READ EVERY SINGLE BOOK IN THE COLLECTION THREE TIMES.

A SURPRISING THING WAS...

HE COULD FIND AT A GLANCE THE BOOK HE WAS LOOKING FOR ON THE SHELVES.

I WAS DRAWN TO THIS PART OF HIM; IT'S WHY I MARRIED HIM.

WHETHER THAT WAS TRUE OR NOT, HIS INTELLIGENCE WAS DEFINITELY NO LIE.

YOU'RE SO UPSET.

WHAT'S WRONG, HONEY?

INCIDENTALLY...

YOU SAID BEFORE THAT YOU LIKED IT, SO...

OH, I'M READING THAT ONE NOW.

IT'S A ROMANCE NOVEL CALLED *RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND* BY MICHEL LANNE.

KOKO, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE BOOK THAT WAS HERE IS?

I'M SORRY...

AND WHEN YOU'RE DONE, MAKE SURE YOU PUT IT BACK WHERE IT WAS!!

YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE THE BOOKS OUT!

TELL ME WHEN YOU'RE READING SOMETHING!

...

I CAN'T STAND IT WHEN I CAN'T FIND EVEN ONE OF THE BOOKS, EVEN IF IT IS ONLY TEMPORARILY.

LISTEN! I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE LIBRARY.

HE WAS ABNORMALLY FIXATED ON THE LIBRARY.

IF GORO HAD EVEN A SPARE SECOND, HE WOULD GO AROUND AND CHECK THE SHELVES IN THE MANSION.

HE SAID HE'D NEVER MISSED A SINGLE DAY.

HE HAD KEPT A DETAILED DIARY EVERY DAY SINCE HE WAS FOUR YEARS OLD.

...WAS ON DISPLAY IN HIS DIARY AS WELL.

HIS PERFECTIONISM ...

Diary

Goro Shirasaki

AND NOW THAT DIARY, WHICH SPANNED DOZENS OF VOLUMES, WAS KEPT ON LOCKED SHELVES.

AAAH-

-IIIII!

ARE YOU OKAY?

GORO?

AAAAAH!

UUUUUUNNI!

-IZZZC

THE BOOKS WERE SLOWLY DISAPPEAR-ING...

...I WAS HAVING A NIGHTMARE.

AH!

HEAP

BUT THAT TENDENCY ONLY GREW STRONGER WITH THE PASSING DAYS.

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE WOULD BE SO WORRIED.

HE WAS EXCESSIVELY AFRAID OF LOSING THE LIBRARY.

HUFF HUFF

I CAN'T!! I HAVE TO CHECK ALL THE BOOKS IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT!

YOU'LL GET SICK IF YOU DON'T COME TO BED ALREADY!

YOU HAVE TO STOP!

...

YOU'VE GOTTEN WORSE AND WORSE SINCE WE GOT MARRIED.

WHY?! WHY ARE YOU SO OBSESSED WITH THE LIBRARY?!

I MEAN, I TREASURE YOUR LIBRARY!!

WHY?! DO YOU THINK I'LL DO SOMETHING TO THE BOOKS?

THAT'S TRUE, KOKO. I HAVE BEEN WORSE SINCE YOU CAME TO LIVE HERE.

I MIGHT BE GETTING PARANOID.

HAAH HAAH

GORO'S CONDITION ONLY CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE.

BUT I CAN'T HELP MYSELF!!

I KNOW THAT!!

EVEN IF I THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS, I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF THE LIBRARY!

HAAH HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

IT'S NOT HERE!

IT'S—

AH!

!

WHAT'S WRONG?!

KOKO!!

KOKO!!

IT'S NOT THERE!! IT'S NOT ON THE SHELF.

I DON'T KNOW. I PUT IT BACK ON THE SHELF WHEN I FINISHED READING IT. YOU EVEN CHECKED THAT I DID!!

KOKO!! WHERE DID YOU PUT *RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND*?!

AND A RARE BOOK—NO, THAT DOESN'T MATTER. IT HAS TO BE THAT PARTICULAR BOOK!

THIS IS SERIOUS... MY MOTHER CHERISHED *RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND*!!

WE LOOKED FOR IT ALL NIGHT, BUT DIDN'T FIND IT.

RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND *HAD INDEED DISAPPEARED.*

NO... ANOTHER BOOK IS MISSING.

WHAT IS IT? DID YOU FIND IT?

OH!

HONEY, LET'S TAKE A BREAK. IF WE KEEP THIS UP...

SPINY HELL... THAT'S THE BOOK MY FATHER TREASURED THE MOST.

HE ALWAYS USED TO SAY IT WAS THE MOST TERRIFYING BOOK IN THIS WORLD.

TANIO AKASABI'S *SPINY HELL* IS GONE!!

WHICH ONE IS IT NOW?

GOD DAMN IT!

DAMN IT!

THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO STOP HIM.

FROM THAT DAY ON, MY HUSBAND SEARCHED FOR THE BOOKS AS THOUGH HE HAD LOST HIS MIND.

GORO!

AND THEN FINALLY...

...AND DECIDED TO LOOK IN HIS DIARIES.

I FOUND THE KEY TO THE SHELF IN MY HUSBAND'S STUDY...

IS IT SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST?

WHAT ON EARTH MAKES YOU GO THIS FAR?

1985

FEBRUARY 9

Mommy went somewhere. Someone I don't is here come home where

DIARY

Goro Shirasaki

HE WAS TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND THE NOVEL, BUT THE FAMILIAR TEXT ALWAYS BROUGHT HIM SWEET DREAMS.

HIS MOTHER WAS KIND AND BEAUTIFUL, AND SHE WOULD ALWAYS READ HIM RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND.

AS I READ THROUGH THE DIARIES, I LEARNED ABOUT HIS PARENTS.

HE YEARNED FOR HIS MOTHER FOR A LONG TIME, RUNNING AROUND THE HOUSE IN SEARCH OF HER.

MOMMYYYYY!

MOMMYYYYY!

BUT THE WINTER WHEN GORO WAS FOUR, HIS MOTHER MET ANOTHER MAN AND DISAPPEARED.

EVERY NIGHT, HE WOULD READ HIS SON TERRIFYING NOVELS, CAUSING THE BOY TO BE DEEPLY AFRAID.

AS FOR HIS FATHER, ONCE HIS WIFE DISAPPEARED, HE GREW TWISTED.

...HE STARTED TO SYSTEMATICALLY MEMORIZE THE LIBRARY.

EVENTUALLY, FOR SOME REASON...

MY BOOKS ARE RUNNING AWAY!

THE BOOKS ...

HIS FATHER'S MENTAL STATE CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE, AND HE BEGAN TO TALK AS THOUGH HE WERE HALLUCINATING...

AT ANY RATE, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT GORO SUFFERED SOME SERIOUS MENTAL TRAUMA AS A BOY.

HE WAS EVENTUALLY HOSPITALIZED.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AFTER THAT.

...AFTER WAKING UP FROM A LONG SLEEP, MY HUSBAND BEGAN TO TELL ME STRANGE THINGS.

TWO DAYS LATER ...

SO PACKED WITH THE RICHNESS OF HIS LIFE UP TO NOW.

BUT THESE DIARIES ARE INCREDIBLY DETAILED.

LATE LAST NIGHT... I HEARD THE DOORBELL, AND THERE SHE WAS, STANDING THERE.

WHAT? WHERE?

I FOUND *RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND.*

GOOD NEWS, KOKO.

SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. RESEMBLED MOMMY SOMEHOW.

BUT THERE WAS NO DOUBT. IT WAS *RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND.*

RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND WAS STANDING IN THE DOORWAY.

I DIDN'T HEAR ANY-THING...

THE DOOR-BELL RANG?

...SHE APPEARED TO BE A COMPLETE INVALID.

AND OTHER THAN HAVING MEMORIZED *RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND*...

...FROM THE FIRST CHAPTER TO THE COLOPHON.

THE PROOF OF THAT IS SHE CORRECTLY RECITED THE ENTIRE NOVEL...

SHE'S STANDING THERE RIGHT NOW. *RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND...*

LOOK.

...IT WASN'T A DREAM.

YOU WERE DREAM-ING.

OH, HONEY...

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

THE NEXT DAY ...

...MY HUSBAND WAS HORRIBLY FRIGHT-ENED.

SHAKE

SHAKE

WHAT'S MAKING YOU SHAKE LIKE THAT?

WHAT'S WRONG?

HE... IT'S THE MOST TERRIFYING NOVEL IN THE WORLD.

I TRIED TO CHASE HIM AWAY!!

HE'S COME BACK...

I-IT'S COME BACK...

...

SPINY HELL !!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW FRIGHTENING THAT NOVEL IS?

READING IT IS LIKE SCRATCHING AT A FESTERING CULTURE GLASS.

AND THEN HE RECITED THAT CURSED NOVEL IN A DISTURBINGLY CREAKY VOICE!!

BUT HE CAME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.

IT'S OKAY. LET'S JUST HAVE THE DOCTOR TAKE A LOOK AT YOU. I'M SURE THERE'S SOME KIND OF GOOD MEDICATION FOR YOU.

SHAKE SHAKE

OH, HONEY...

I'LL LET HIM DO WHATEVER HE WANTS...

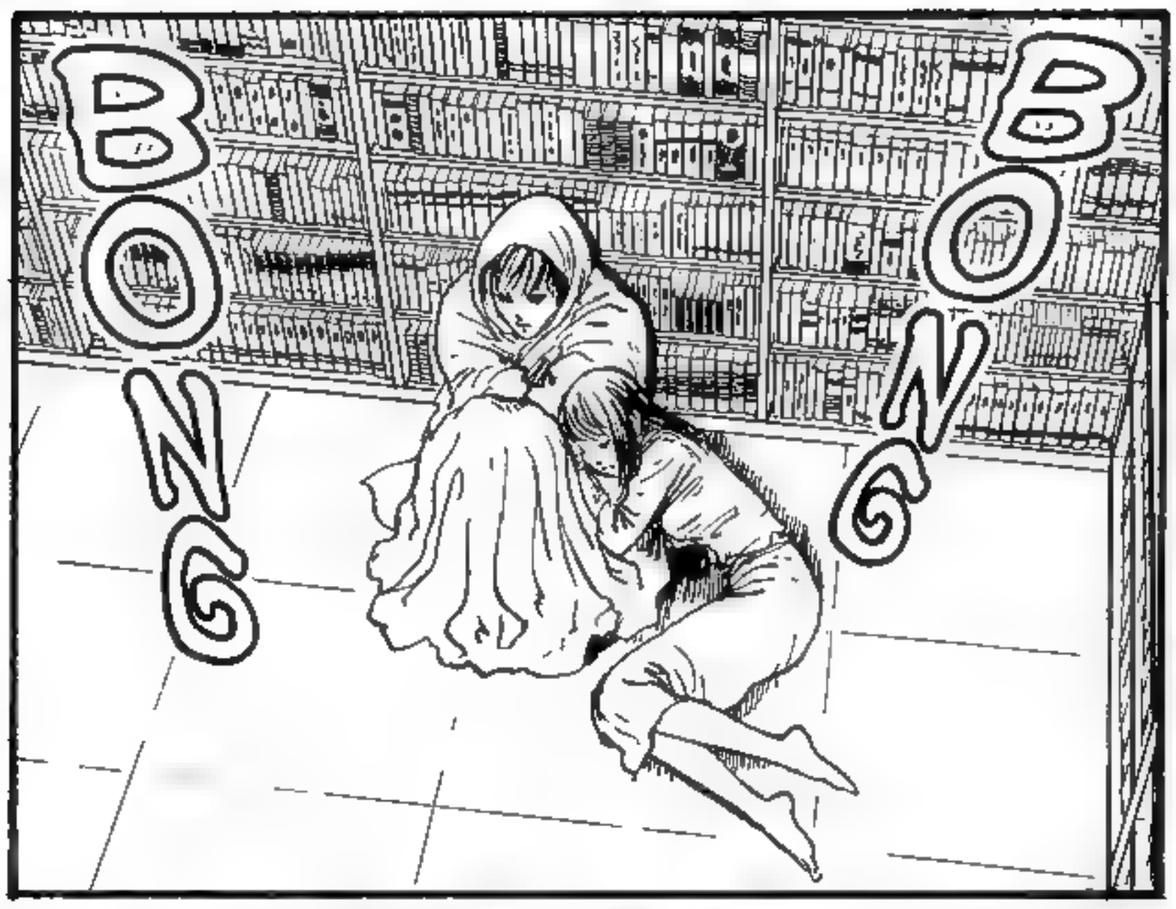
SO IF HE'S GOING TO COME, LET HIM COME!!

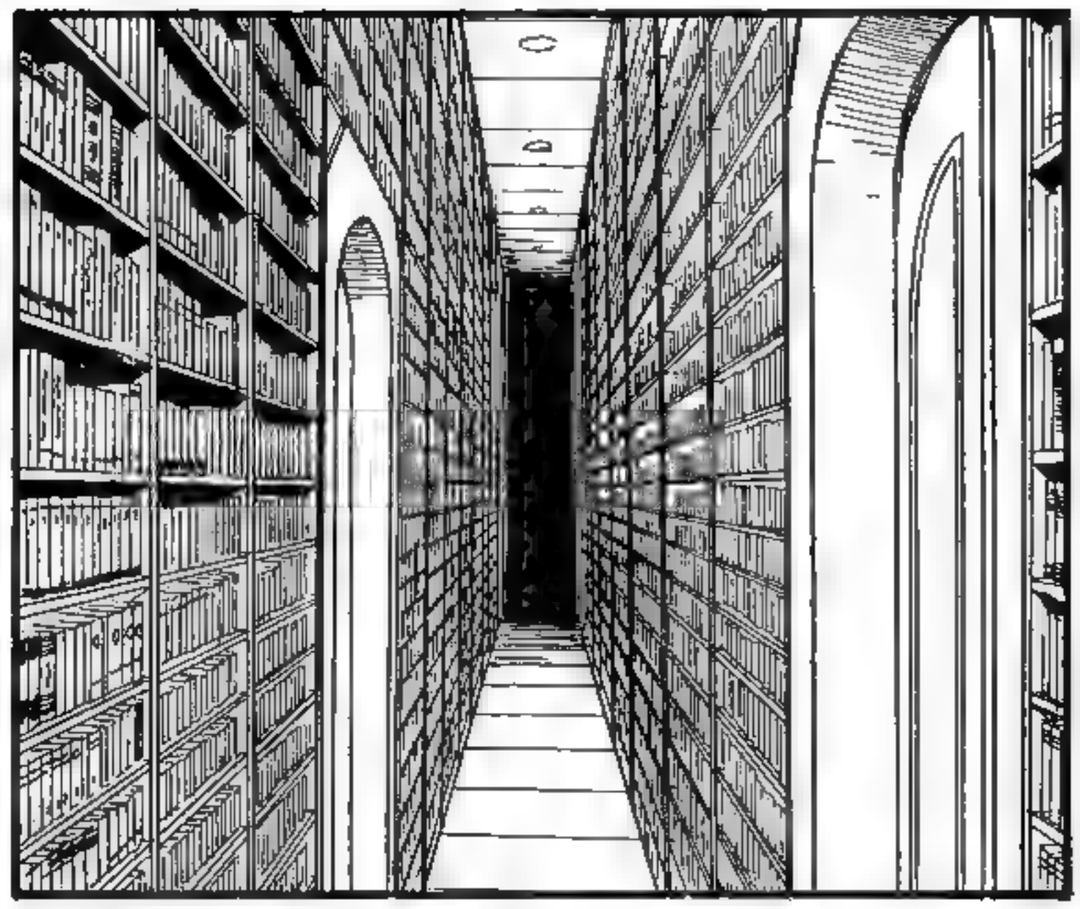
HE'LL COME AGAIN.

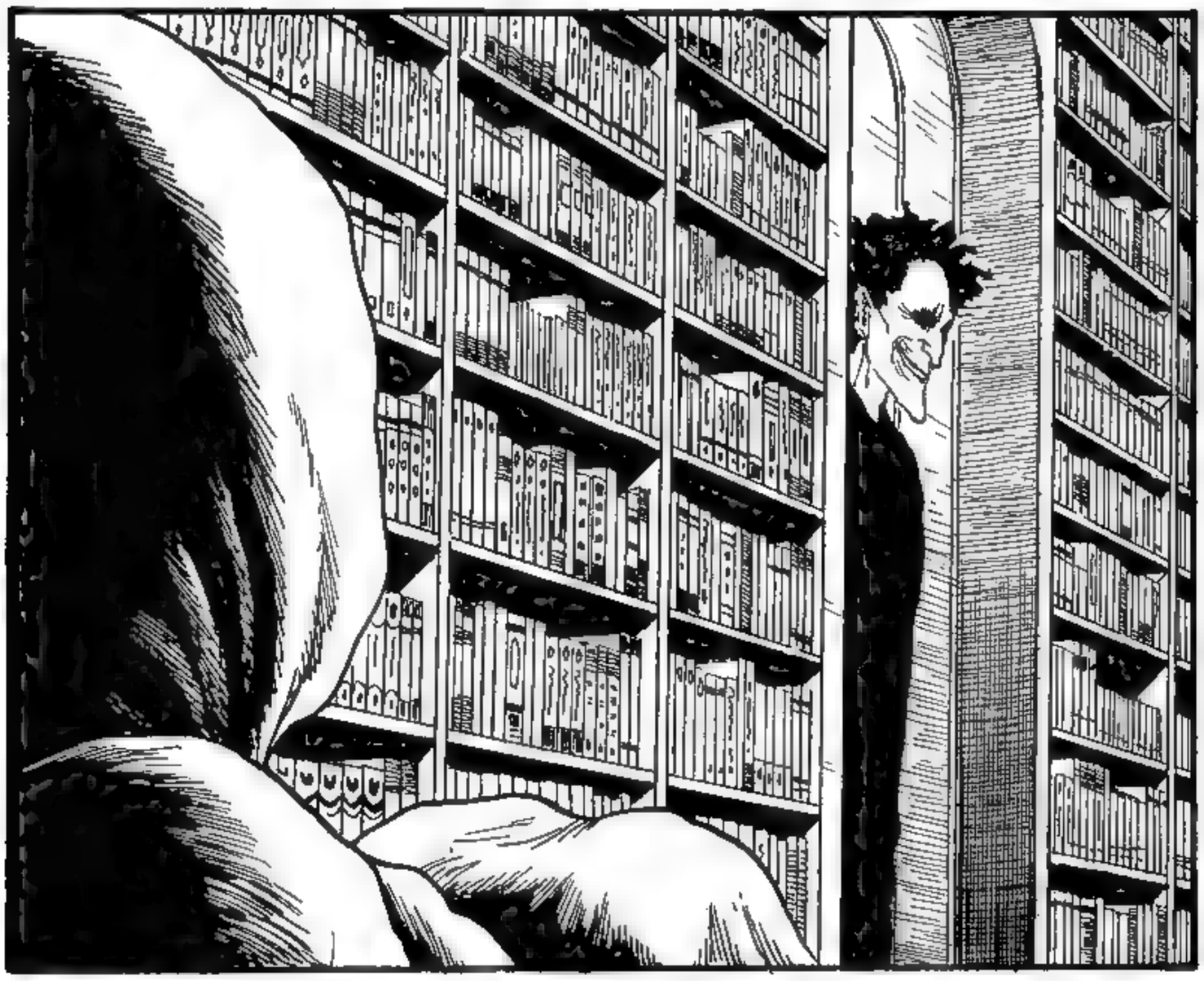
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.

KOKO ...

I HAVE AN IDEA.


BOZO
BOZO





MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER

MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER

MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER

MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER

MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER

"PROLOGUE... AGDORM GE SHAWEMEK ..."

"...I OFFER UP... THIS CURSED PROSE TO THE DEAD IN HELL..."

H- HONEY ...?

"THIS BLOODY INCIDENT MADE THE WHOLE WORLD SHAKE... FURTHER-MORE...

THE OMINOUS SIGN THAT APPEARED ON MY RETINAS...

...FINALLY SPREAD THROUGHOUT MY BRAIN...

TOGETHER WITH AN EARSPLITTING SCREECH, THE ENTRANCE TO HELL, CLEAR TO ABSOLUTELY ANYONE'S EYES..."

EEEEEEEE!

MUTTER MUTTER

SHRRRP

MUTTER MUTTER MUTTER

GORO CONTINUED TO MUTTER FOR SEVERAL HOURS.

MUTTER

IT WAS ALMOST LIKE HE WAS FIGHTING WITH SOMEONE.

MUTTER MUTTER

EEEEE!

FROM TIME TO TIME HE WOULD INJURE HIMSELF, AS THOUGH HE WERE UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE FEAR.

MUTTER MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER MUTTER

"THE EERIE CURETTAGE THAT THIS CURSED SURGEON PERFORMED IN 1955 TOOK ME TO AN EVEN MORE ABNORMAL CONDITION..."

NO! STOP IT!

G-GORO!

"...TO BEGIN WITH, THAT INCIDENT HAS DEVOURED MY SPIRIT TO THIS EXTENT..."

"...WHAT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THESE ABHORRENT CHANGES IN MY FLESH IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE SIDE EFFECTS OF HELL."

STOOOOOP!

"...FINAL CHAPTER..."

"...SATAMOR YAFEDORA..."

NOOOOOOOOO

KOKO...

KOKO...

SPINY HELL IS GONE. I WON.

IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.

...GORO?

KOKO, ARE YOU AWAKE?

HE LOST THE REASON FOR HIS EXISTENCE.

BECAUSE I MEMORIZED EACH AND EVERY SYLLABLE THAT CAME OUT OF HIS MOUTH.

THAT ACTUALLY LED TO HIS DEMISE.

HE WAS TORMENTING ME, MAKING ME LISTEN TO THAT TERRIFYING NOVEL.

I'M... OKAY NOW...

IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY NOW.

ZZZZZI-

OOOOOOI-

ZZZZZI-

WHAT'S WRONG?!

HONEY!

NGAAAAAH!

...THE WORDS WENT INTO MY HEAD, WHETHER I WANTED THEM TO OR NOT!!

I HAD NO CHOICE. AS I TURNED MY EAR TO HER RECITATION...

RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND IS GONE.

RENÉE IS—

SO I'VE MADE A DECISION ...

I'M GOING TO PUT ALL OF THE COLLECTION IN THE HOUSE INTO MY HEAD!!

IF I WAS GOING TO END UP BEING THIS SAD, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF SHE'D NEVER COME IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SHE'LL NEVER SHOW HERSELF TO ME AGAIN...

HE SET ABOUT MEMORIZING A QUANTITY OF BOOKS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A NORMAL PERSON.

AFTER THAT, I WATCHED AS GORO DISPLAYED A FEARSOME ABILITY.

NIAGARA CONFERENCE. IN 1914...

N—

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

...HE RECITED TO ME ALL THE VOLUMES OF THE LARGE WORLD ENCY-CLOPEDIA.

ONCE HE FINISHED MEMORIZING ALL THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NOVELS HE OWNED...

...WOULD FILL THE ROOM WITH HIS HIGH-PITCHED RECITATION.

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

...SUDDENLY, LIKE A TAPE PLAYED ON FAST-FORWARD, GORO...

FLIP FLIP FLIP FLIP

IT WAS A BIZARRE SIGHT. JUST WHEN ALL I COULD HEAR IN THE SILENCE WAS THE SOUND OF PAGES QUICKLY BEING FLIPPED...

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

THE NUMBER OF BOOKS HE'D MEMORIZED WAS ALREADY WELL PAST 100,000...

...AND THE BOOKS HE'D FINISHED WITH PILED UP INTO MOUNTAINS.

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

B-BUT... MY BRAIN CAPACITY... IS NEAR THE LIMIT...

DON'T BOTHER ME. JUST A LITTLE... MORE... LEFT...

GORO... PLEASE...

ENOUGH. STOP.

NO, STAY WITH ME!

FLIP FLIP FLIP

A VAST AMOUNT...OF KNOWLEDGE... IS IN MY HEAD... IN EXCHANGE... MY...MY OWN... MEMORIES... ARE...

CAN I... MEMORIZE THEM ALL... O-OR...WILL MY BRAIN... BURST...

BLAH BLAH BLAH

BLAH BLAH BLAH

BLAH BLAH BLAH

...I FOUND THE EMPTY SHELL OF MY HUSBAND.

THE NEXT DAY, IN THIS ROOM...

...HAD BEEN COM-PLETELY TAKEN OVER BY THE LIBRARY.

HIS BRAIN ...

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

"RENÉE'S LOVE WAS FLEETING LIKE THE SNOW FALLING ON THE TOWN..."

"CHAPTER ONE...THE MEETING ..."

THEY WERE ...

Happy memories

Goro Shirasaki

Diary

...HIS DIARIES.

THE DOZENS OF BOOKS SCATTERED AT HIS FEET...

...LOOKED TO BE ONES HE HADN'T MANAGED TO MEMORIZE IN THE END, ALTHOUGH HE TRIED.

OKAY! I'M OKAY! I'M OKAY!!

DOES THIS MEAN YOU MIGHT HAVE MAINTAINED YOUR SANITY IF YOU'D MEMORIZED THESE DIARIES?

Diary

POOR THING.

FOR THE SAKE OF THIS LIBRARY...

OH, GORO !!

THAT'S THE SHIRASAKI HOUSE! THE SHIRASAKI HOUSE IS ON FIRE!!

FIRE!

IT'S MY HUSBAND.

WHAT ?!

WE'LL CONFIRM THE IDENTITY RIGHT—

WE FOUND ONE BODY IN THE HOUSE.

BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HIM... THE FIRE SPREAD SO QUICKLY, I COULDN'T GET HIM OUT...

I SET THE FIRE.

YOU... YOU'RE THE LADY OF THE HOUSE?

I WAS JUST— I JUST HATED THE LIBRARY.

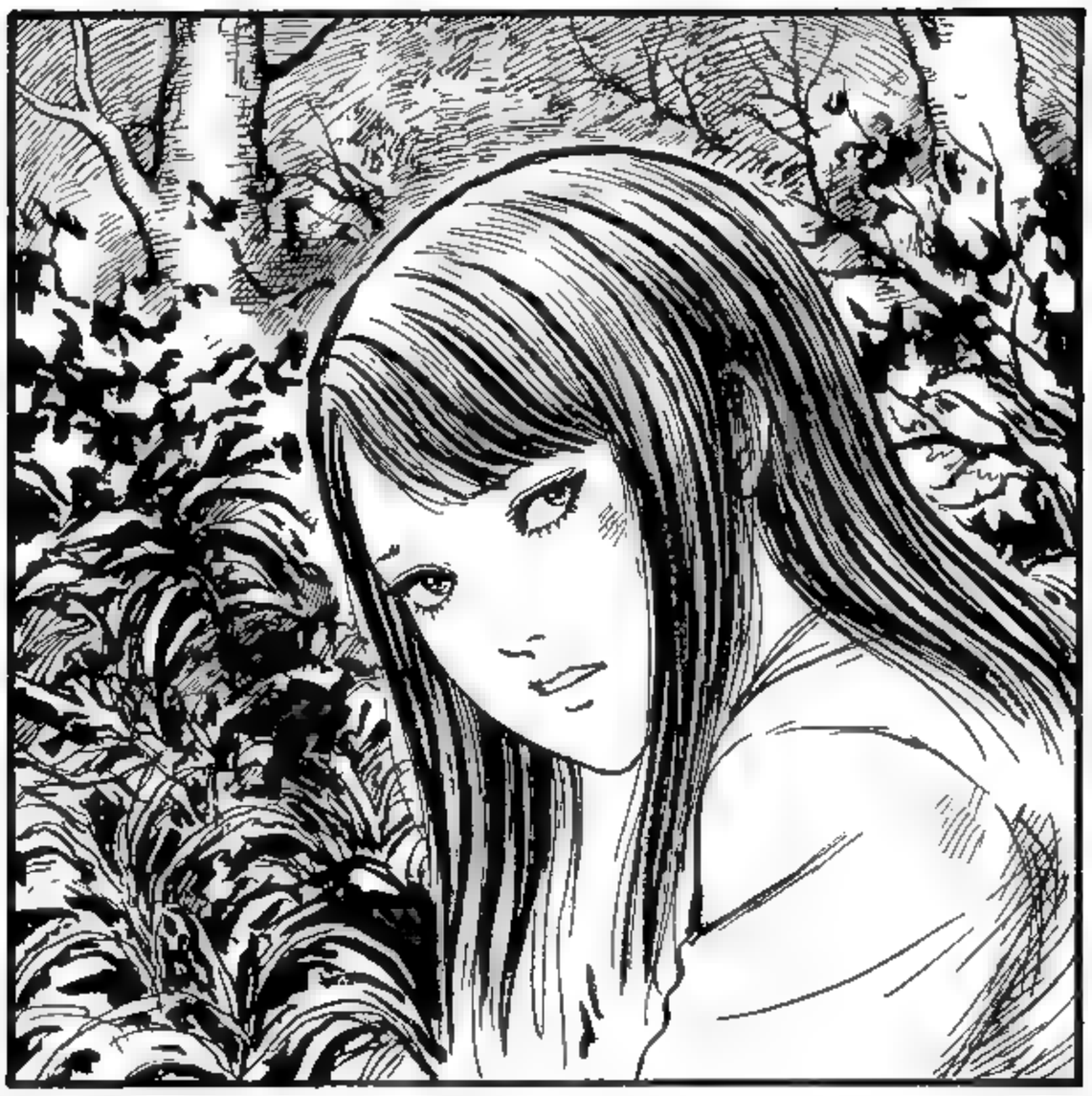
SO I... BURNED IT. NOW IT'S FINALLY GONE FOREVER.

OH, THEM?

AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR HUS-BAND'S FAMILY?

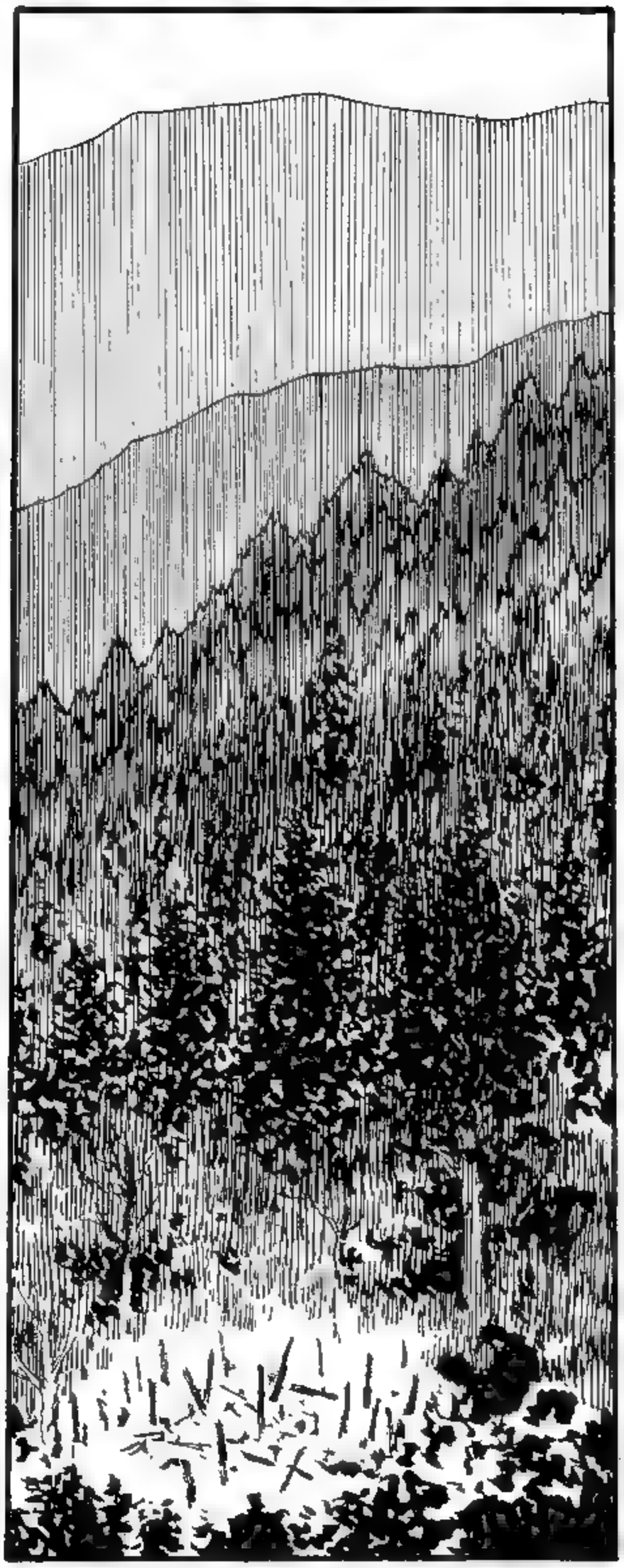
BUT...IT'S BETTER THIS WAY... NOW THE VISIONS OF THE LIBRARY WILL NEVER APPEAR AGAIN.

MRS. SHIRASAKI, YOU'LL NEED TO SPEAK WITH THE POLICE.



BUT I DOUBT THERE'S ANY POINT IN CONTACTING HIM...
HIS FATHER'S IN A HOSPITAL IN A NEIGH-BORING TOWN NOW.

TAKYO HOSPITAL



BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH
LIBRARY VISION / END

SPLENDID SHADOW SONG

闇の絶唱

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU! DAMN YOU!

YOU'RE SO STUBBORN! HANGING ON!

JAZO JAZO JAZO

EEEAAAAAH!

AAAAAAAAH!

AAAAAAAAH!

GIVE ME BACK MY PEACEFUL DAAAAAYS!

GO AWAY!
GO AWAY!
GO AWAY!

JANG JANG JANG JANG JANG JANG JANG JANG

HOW LONG WITH ME, WHOOOAAA! HOW FAR WITH ME, NOOOO!

WEIRD SONG...

...

AAH! NOOOO!

WHY, WHY DO YOU MAKE ME SUFFER!

WHOOAAAA!

VZZM

TIME FOR BED.

AAAH.

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU! DAMN YOU! YOU'RE SO STUBBORN! HANGING ON!

JANG JANG JANG JANG JANG JANG JANG

HOW LONG WITH ME, WHOOOAAA! HOW FAR WITH ME, NOOOO!

THAT SONG'S STUCK IN MY HEAD.

WHY, WHY DO YOU MAKE ME SUFFER! AAH! NOOOO!

CHIRP CHIRP

CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

A WEIRD ONE. THIS STREET MUSICIAN WAS PLAYING IT.

HUH. WHAT SONG IS IT?

I DON'T KNOW... I COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT.

IT'S STILL PLAYING IN MY HEAD NOW.

HM? YOU CAN'T GET A SONG OUT OF YOUR HEAD? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TAMAYO?

IT'S NOT A HALLUCINATION.

THIS SONG KEEPS PLAYING IN MY HEAD.

...IT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR THE LAST WEEK.

TANIKOSHI CLINIC
Neurology
Internal
Medicine

ONE MONTH LATER

I'LL PRESCRIBE YOU SOMETHING THAT SHOULD TAKE CARE OF IT.

IT'S LIKELY SOME TYPE OF COMPULSION.

I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU!
DAMN YOU!

IT'S NOT GETTING BETTER AT ALL.

Oo

IT'S NOT GETTING BETTER ...

AAH!

B-BUT NO MATTER WHERE I LOOKED, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THEN.

I'LL FIND HER AND ASK HER ABOUT IT!!

THAT WOMAN... WHO ON EARTH IS SHE?!

THAT WOMAN ...

...

THMP THMP THMP THMP

THMP THMP THMP

JANG JANG JANG

AAH, I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!

NOW! OUR NEXT SONG IS FROM THE DEBUT ALBUM OF NEWCOMER YU KANADE. SHE'S BEEN SHOOTING UP THE CHARTS THIS LAST MONTH.

"END-LESS HATE" ...

FM 820

AAAH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE SEEN THIS KIND OF MASSIVE NEWCOMER. YU KANADE WAS SINGING ON THE STREET A MONTH AGO WHEN SHE WAS SCOUTED, AND NOW HER ALBUM IS A NUMBER ONE HIT!!

FM 820

HOW LONG WITH ME, WHOOOAAA! HOW FAR WITH ME, NOOOO!

I'M HEARING IT FROM THE RADIO?

GIVE ME BACK MY PEACEFUL DAAAAAYS!

W-WHAT?!

AND GOOD NEWS!! SHE'LL BE PLAYING LIVE NEXT WEEK AT OX HALL.

THE ALBUM IS A MASTERPIECE!! ALL THE SONGS ARE ARRANGED IN A MEDLEY, FULL OF PHANTASMAGORIC AND MYSTERIOUS MELODIES, A KALEIDOSCOPE IN MUSIC FORM FILLED WITH HER INNER SCREAMS!

YOUR FIRST CHANCE TO SEE YU KANADE IN THE FLESH!!

KA-
NA-
DE

KA-
NA-
DE

KA-
NA-
DE

KA-
NA-
DE

KA-
NA-
DE

JANG

JANG

JANG

JANG

JANG

YAAAH KANADE KANADE

I LOVED YOOOU! I LOVED YOU! BUT NOW THAT'S ALL OVER AND DONE...

AAAAAAH! COME ON! NOOOOO!

NOW I'M IN A LIVING HELL! WHOOOAAA!

AND THEN YOU LEAVE ME THIS FAREWELL GIFT. WHY, WHY, WHY?!

NOOOOO!

AAAAH! GO AWAY! GO AWAY! GO AWAY!

WHOOOO KANADE KANADE

NONONO-
NOOOO!
STOOOOP
ALREADYYYY!

EEEAAAAAAH!

BANG

GET
LOOOOOST!
EEEEEEEE!

BANG BANG BANG

TOGETHERRRRR!

GET YOUR SHIT...

MURMUR MURMUR MURMUR

THEY TOOK HER AWAY IN AN AMBULANCE.

SHUFFLE SHUFFLE

WHAT THE HELL... HAPPENED TO YU?

HELP MEEEEE!

AAAAAAAAH!

THAT'S THE KIND OF IMPACT HER WORK HAS.

ME, TOO. THEY'VE JUST BEEN PLAYING IN MY HEAD THE LAST TWO WEEKS.

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET YU KANADE'S SONGS OUT OF MY HEAD SINCE I HEARD THEM.

I'M WORRIED... I'M A REAL FAN OF HERS.

THAT'S YU KANADE'S TALENT...

SHE MAKES SONGS THAT GET TOTALLY STUCK IN YOUR HEAD.

IT'S NOT JUST ME.

I'M SURE THERE ARE A TON OF OTHERS BESIDES THE PEOPLE HERE.

Yu Kanade's debut album hits a million sold!!

And the appeal of those songs?! Hear them once, and they'll be stuck in your head forever!

Fans developing neuroses one after another after listening to Yu Kanade!

The songs keep playing in people's heads!!

Yu Kanade: More commotion in her hospital room. She keeps singing loudly!

Hospital forced to immediately discharge her.

Yu Kanade's erratic behavior at her first concert!! Hospitalized!!

Yu Kanade is missing!! She's disappeared from her condo!!

Broadcast boycott!! CD sales stopped!! Removal from shops!!

Countless victims!! Possible class action suit?!

"Yu Kanade's songs are noise pollution in the brain!!"

Yu Kanade is being sued!!

WHAT?! OH! SORRY.

TAMAYO!! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

I HEARD HER SONGS, BUT NOTHING HAPPENED TO ME.

TAMAYO? IT'S STILL NOT BETTER? I HEAR IT'S DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE, HUH...

I CAN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ANYMORE.

I DON'T WANT TO THINK...

EITHER WAY, I CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE, THOUGH.

LISTENING TO SOME OTHER MUSIC LOUDLY LIKE THIS DISTRACTS ME A LITTLE.

EVERYONE'S BRAINS ARE CONTROLLED BY YU KANADE'S SONGS.

...

AND HER TOO...

THAT GUY...

SHAKU NOISE LABORATORY

...?

...

AND WHAT'S YU KANADE DOING NOW... AND WHERE...

SO MANY PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING.

VRRRRR

BEEBEEP

SHAKU NOISE LABORATORY

SHAKU NOISE

SHAKU NOISE LABORA-TORY...

VRRRRR

VRR

VRR

NOISE LABORATORY

KNOCK

I-I'M SUFFERING FROM THIS NOISE IN MY HEAD...

UM. WHAT NOISE DO YOU STUDY?

SILENCE

WELCOME. I'M SHAKU.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

BRAIN NOISE IS NO EXCEPTION THERE!!

IN MY RESEARCH, I STUDY METHODS OF DEALING WITH ALL KINDS OF NOISE.

OH HO... THE BRAIN NOISE EVERY-ONE'S TALKING ABOUT THESE DAYS.

EEAAAH

AND THAT RESEARCH IS NEARLY AT THE STAGE OF COMPLETION !!

STRANGELY ENOUGH, I'VE BEEN STUDYING BRAIN NOISE SINCE LAST YEAR!!

STOP! I HATE YOU!! YOU'RE SO STUBBORN! GO TO HELL! AAAAAH!

I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT MELODY BEFORE.

A CD? NO, IT'S NOT.

THAT'S YU KANADE.

OH! THAT VOICE...

DOCTOR SHAKUUUUU!!

DOCTOOOOOR! DOCTOR SHAKUUUUUUU!!

HURRY AND DO SOMETHIIIING!

IS YU KANADE HERE?

DOCTOR... IT CAN'T BE.

...CAME HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE END OF LAST YEAR.

SHE ACTUALLY ...

I'VE BEEN HIDING HER SINCE HER DISAPPEAR-ANCE.

IT IS INDEED YU KANADE. ALTHOUGH THAT'S NOT HER REAL NAME...

SHE SAID SHE COULDN'T GET THIS SONG OUT OF HER HEAD.

THE WOMAN THERE BEFORE ME WAS UTTERLY EXHAUSTED.

THIS IS HER STORY...

...

SHE SAID NO MATTER HOW HARD SHE TRIED TO GET RID OF IT, IT WOULDN'T STOP.

THE SONG KEPT PLAYING INSIDE HER HEAD.

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT?! SHE COULDN'T GET A SONG OUT OF HER HEAD?

SHE SAID HE WOULD ALWAYS SING HER LOVE SONGS.

THE TWO MET ON THE STREET AND FELL IN LOVE.

SHE USED TO HAVE A BOYFRIEND, A MAN WHO DREAMED OF BEING A MUSICIAN SOMEDAY.

BUT HE REFUSED TO LET IT HAP-PEN AND TURNED INTO A STALKER.

SHE TRIED TO BREAK UP WITH HIM.

NOT ONLY WAS HE VERY JEALOUS, BUT HE HAD NO TALENT AND HE WAS VERY STUBBORN.

BUT EVEN-TUALLY, SHE GOT FED UP WITH HIM.

...IN HER APART-MENT.

...HE KILLED HIMSELF...

HIS STALKING BEHAVIOR STEADILY ESCALATED.

ONE DAY...

AND THEN, EXACTLY 49 DAYS LATER...

A STRANGE SONG SUDDENLY ROSE UP IN THE BACK OF HER MIND.

BUT IT SIMPLY WOULD NOT LEAVE HER HEAD.

SHE TRIED TO GET RID OF IT.

IT WAS A LOVE SONG WITHOUT END, AS IF HE HAD SENT IT TO HER FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

IT WAS... *HIS* SONG.

SHE EVEN-TUALLY BECAME NEUROTIC AND CAME TO MY LABORA-TORY HERE.

THE ENTHUSIAS-TIC SING-ING OF THE MAN PAS-SIONATELY PRESSING HER TO RECONCILE.

AFTER MUCH TRIAL AND ERROR, I DECIDED TO TRY A VIRTUAL SILENCING WITHIN THE NERVES.

BUT THE NOISE IN HER BRAIN IS A FUNCTION OF THE NERVES, DIFFERENT FROM BASIC SOUND.

AND I INDEPENDENTLY DEVELOPED ACTIVE NOISE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY TO CANCEL OUT SOUND WITH SOUND TO GOOD RESULTS.

I'VE DEALT WITH A VARIETY OF NOISES.

BY STIMULATING HER BRAIN WITH A SOUND AT THE EXACT OPPOSITE FREQUENCY OF THE SOUND PLAYING IN IT, I COULD KNOCK OUT THAT MAN'S SONG!

CASES IN WHICH STIMULATION OF A CERTAIN PART OF THE BRAIN CAUSED THE PATIENT TO HEAR MUSIC PROVIDED A CLUE.

AND SHE SAID THAT HIS SONG WAS COMPLEX AND CHANGED FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT.

SPECIAL MEASURES WOULD BE NEEDED TO HANDLE THIS COMPLEXITY AND THE CHANGES.

THE BIGGEST ISSUE WAS THAT THE SONG WAS PRODUCED BY HER NERVES AND DIDN'T ACTUALLY EXIST, MEANING I WOULD HAVE TO ANALYZE AND CORRECTLY READ THE SONG FROM HER BRAIN WAVES.

SIMPLY ANALYZING SOUND INSIDE THE BRAIN IS A NEXT-TO-IMPOSSIBLE UNDERTAKING.

EVEN THOUGH WE WERE STILL AT THE TRIAL STAGE...

BUT UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE TERROR AND ANGUISH, SHE FLED THE LABORATORY.

STILL, EVERY-THING WAS SLOWLY COMING TOGETHER.

BUT IT WAS HOPELESS. SHE RETURNED TO ME ONCE MORE.

IN HER OWN WAY, SHE WAS TRYING DESPERATELY TO GET RID OF THE NOISE IN HER MIND.

I WAS STUNNED. THE MELODY THAT SHE WAS SINGING— IT WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THE SOUND I WAS TESTING.

IT WASN'T LONG AFTER THAT WHEN SHE APPEARED IN THE MEDIA AS YU KANADE.

KACHAK

COME.

NOW IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF WAITING FOR THE SYSTEM I COMPLETED TO ERASE THE SOUND IN HER BRAIN.

I'M CONFIDENT I CAN SAVE HER.

D-DOCTOR...
HURRY...
HURRY...

DO SOME-THING!!

THE TIMING OF THE SOUND WAVES... WE MUST HIT IT CORRECTLY. IF THERE'S ANY DEVIATION...

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING HERE WE MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT.

THE COUNTER-SOUND WILL NOW KNOCK THE SONG OUT OF YOUR HEAD.

I UNDERSTAND. THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

...IT WILL BE AMPLIFIED, AND THE SONG WILL PLAY VERY LOUDLY INSIDE YOUR BRAIN.

...NOT ONLY WILL THE SOUND NOT DISAPPEAR...

WEEEEEEEN

CHAK CHAK

CHAK CHAK

VWEEEEEEE

VWEEEEEE

I CAN'T HEAR THE SONG ANYMORE!!

IT'S GONE!! ...IT DISAP-PEARED!!

D-DOCTOR ...

DOCTOR !!

?!

THANK YOU, DOCTOR!!

I'M SO HAPPY... DOCTOR, I'M FINALLY FREE!!

AAAAAH!

AH ?!

N-NO! THE WAVE-FORM'S DEVIATING !!

AAAAAAAH

WEEEEEEEE

ENNNNNNH!

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

B-BUT WHY?! WHY IS HER HEAD VIBRATING?! AT MOST, IT'S A VIRTUAL SOUND INSIDE OF HER BRAIN!!

THIS IS BAD!! I HAVE TO HURRY AND CORRECT THIS!!

AAAA

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

?!

AAAAAH!

PATUK

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

KRI-P

AH!!

BUT I
OOOO

SHE'S DEAD...
I HATE YOU I HATE YOU DAMN YOUUUUU
LA LA LA I'M NOT GOING ANYWHEEEEERE
WHOOOOOOAAA GO AWAY GO AWAAAAAAAY
I GIVE IT ALL TO YOU THIS SONG EVEN IF I DIEEE
STOP STOOOOOP
STOP... STOOOOOP!
AAAAAH!
THE RESEARCH CONTINUES ...
NO.

SPLENDID SHADOW SONG / END

SMASHED
潰
かいだん
怪談

YEAH. AND IT'S REALLY WORTH IT. OR RATHER, WHAT'S *INSIDE* IT IS...

WOW... YOU SERIOUSLY RISKED YOUR LIFE JUST TO BRING THIS JAR BACK, OGI?

AT ANY RATE, I RISKED MY LIFE ON THAT TRIP.

FOR A WHILE, I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T MAKE IT BACK TO JAPAN ALIVE.

LIKE I SAID, I WAS TRAVELING IN SOUTH AMERICA.

OKAY, LISTEN TO THIS, SUGIO.

NECTAR.

SO WHAT'S INSIDE?

NECTAR? WHAT KIND?

AND THAT WAS THIS POT FULL OF NECTAR.

THEY WERE SURPRISINGLY KIND TO ME. THEY EVEN SENT ME HOME WITH A GIFT.

I WAS A LITTLE CARELESS, AND I ENDED UP IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. I WAS LOST IN THE JUNGLE...

...AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS THE END FOR ME, I STUMBLED ON THIS TRIBE'S VILLAGE.

AND THIS PLANT IS THE FOCUS OF THEIR RELIGION.

WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

RISK THEIR LIVES HOW? DOES THE PLANT GROW ON A CLIFF OR SOME-THING?

THEY SAID THEY RISK THEIR LIVES TO GET IT.

I GUESS THE NECTAR IS FROM A PLANT THAT ONLY GROWS THERE.

I CAN'T EVEN STAND IT.

SO GOOD.

I UNDERSTAND HOW THEY FEEL. THIS NECTAR IS SO GOOD, IT'S PRACTICALLY DIVINE.

FWP

YOU HAVE TO *TRY NOT TO BE NOTICED* WHEN YOU EAT THIS NECTAR.

I'LL TELL YOU THIS NOW, THOUGH.

YEAH, GIMME.

YOU WANT SOME?

DIVINE, HUH?

WOW...

TO NOT BE NOTICED, YOU KNOW?

BUT THEY WERE REALLY INSISTENT. THEY SAID IT WAS SUPER IMPORTANT.

OR MAYBE IT'S JUST LIKE SMOKING, DOING IT IN SECRET MAKES IT BETTER.

HA HA HA! I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT IT.

TRY NOT TO BE NOTICED? BY WHO? LIKE, THE NECTAR GOD?

AMAZING !!

MM...

AH! DON'T TAKE SO MUCH!

HUH.

NO WAY! THIS IS ALL I HAVE.

GIMME SOME MORE!

WHOA! IT'S SO GOOD! DIVINE.

WHAT THE— I'VE NEVER TASTED ANY-THING LIKE THIS.

THANK YOU!

LAWSON

MAYBE I'LL GET A SANDWICH OR SOME-THING.

NOW I'M HUNGRY.

TCH! THAT OGI'S A STINGY BASTARD.

THIS BREAD IS AWFUL...

AND COMPARED TO THAT NECTAR...

...

MZOH MZOH

MNCH MNCH

THE WINDOW'S OPEN. LET'S GO INSIDE.

OG1

I GUESS HE'S NOT?

YOU HOME?

BANG BANG

HEEEEY! OGI!

OG1

A FEW DAYS LATER

LET US HAVE SOME OF THAT SOUTH AMERICAN NECTAR, TOO!

HEY! OGI!

DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT, SUGI.

WHAT? YOU SURE THAT'S COOL, KAMEDA?

WELL, WHATEVER. LET'S JUST HAVE A BIT OF THAT NECTAR WHILE THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE IS OUT.

WEIRD. HIS BIKE'S HERE, THOUGH.

OGIIIII! YOU CAN'T PRETEND YOU'RE OUT.

SUGIO, WHERE IS IT?

DO YOU SMELL THAT?

MM?! SO GOOD!!

LIKE I CARE. OKAY, LET'S EAT.

THIS IS AMAZING! GUYS, HAVE SOME!!

JUST MAKE IT ONLY A LITTLE BIT. OGI'LL FREAK OUT ON US OTHERWISE.

IT'S IN THAT POT THERE...

I'M EATING ALL OF IT.

WE CAN'T STOP WITH JUST A LITTLE OF THIS STUFF.

KAMEDA

DELI-CIOUS!

YEAH.

YASUMIN

YUMMMMM!

WHAT'S THIS?

RIRUKO

IT'S SO YUMMY.

IT REALLY IS. LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER HAD BEFORE...

YUE

YEAH, THAT'S NOT THE SMELL OF THE NECTAR.

YEAH, LIKE SOME-THING'S ROTTING.

HEY, WHAT IS THAT SMELL, ANYWAY? IT'S STUNK SINCE WE WALKED IN...

NO, BUT WE CAN'T LET HIM HAVE IT ALL TO HIMSELF.

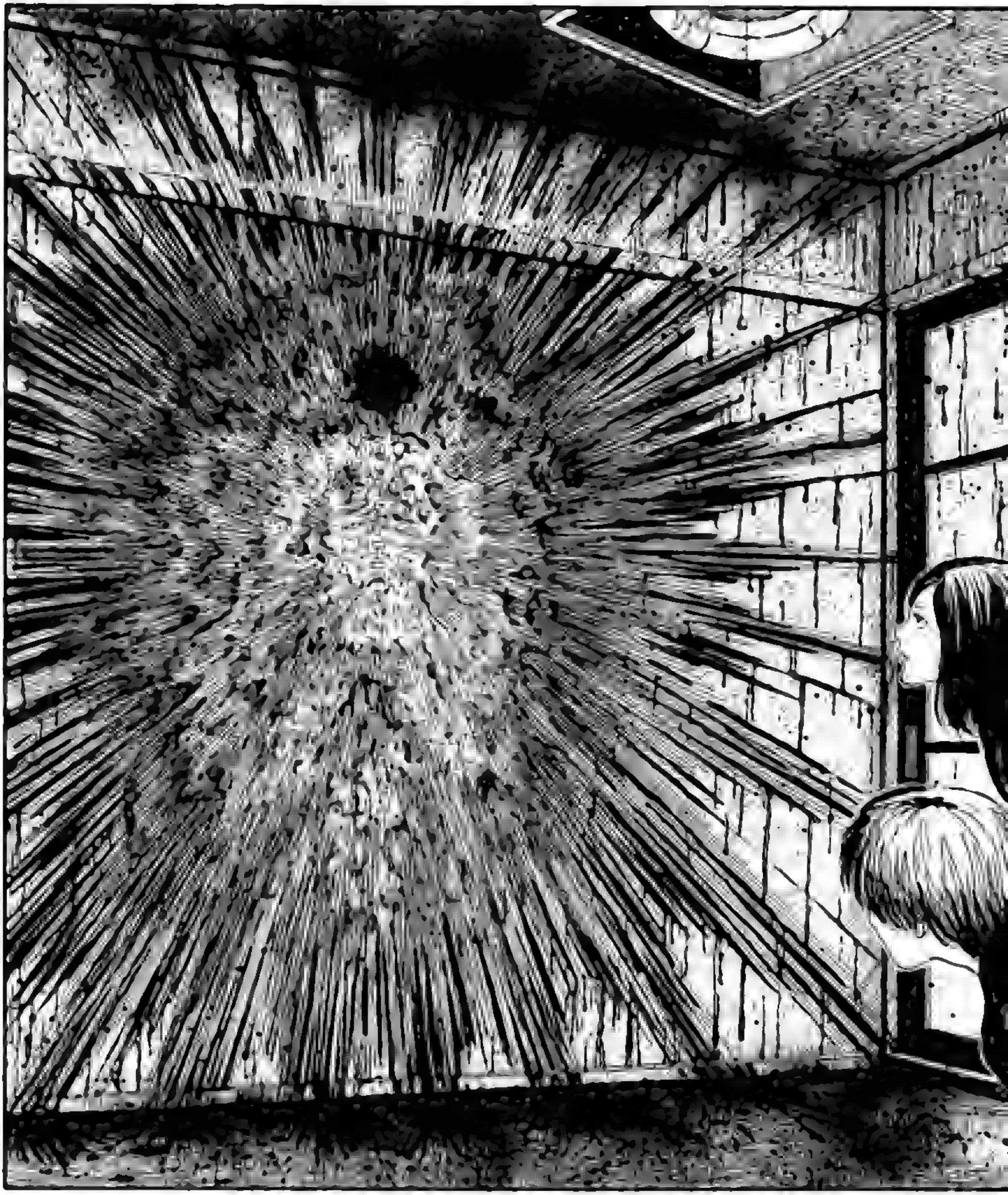
RIGHT, EXACTLY. LET'S SPLIT IT.

DON'T DO THAT. I FEEL BAD FOR OGI, Y'KNOW?

WHAT'S THAT?

HUH?

THE OTHER ROOM MAYBE?



IS THIS ...?
WHAT ...
...

PLAPPLAPPLAPP

BUT, I MEAN, THOSE LOOK LIKE BONES STICKING OUT.

NO WAY. THIS THING? IT LOOKS LIKE LEATHER.

AND... IT'S WEARING CLOTHES...

HEY... IS IT A PERSON?

W- WHAT IS THIS...

THERE'S SOME- THING LIKE HAIR ON IT.

WHY WOULD OGI BE A PANCAKE LIKE THIS?

DOES THAT MEAN... THIS IS OGI?

W- WHAT'S GOING ON?

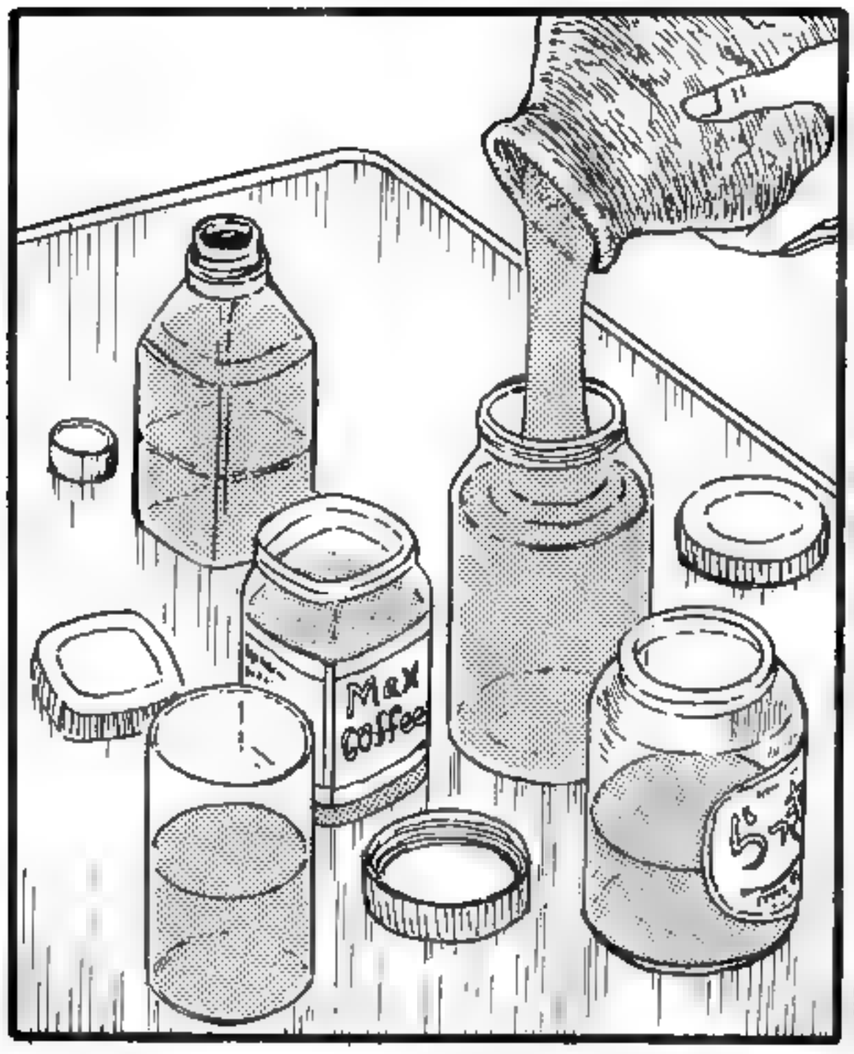
THAT'S... OGI'S SHIRT...

HEY, SUGIO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? COME ON ALREADY.

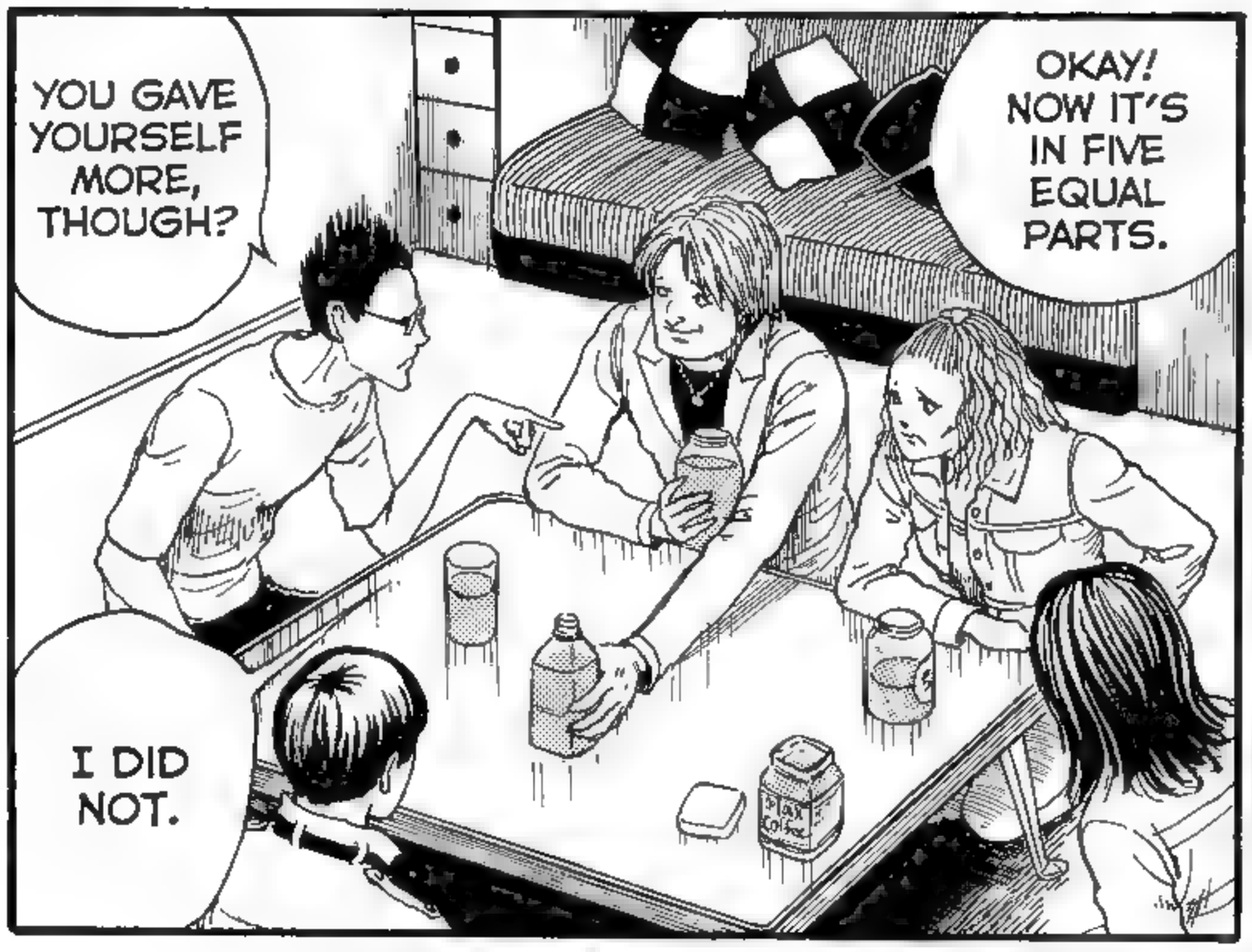
R- RIGHT.

I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS, BUT LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

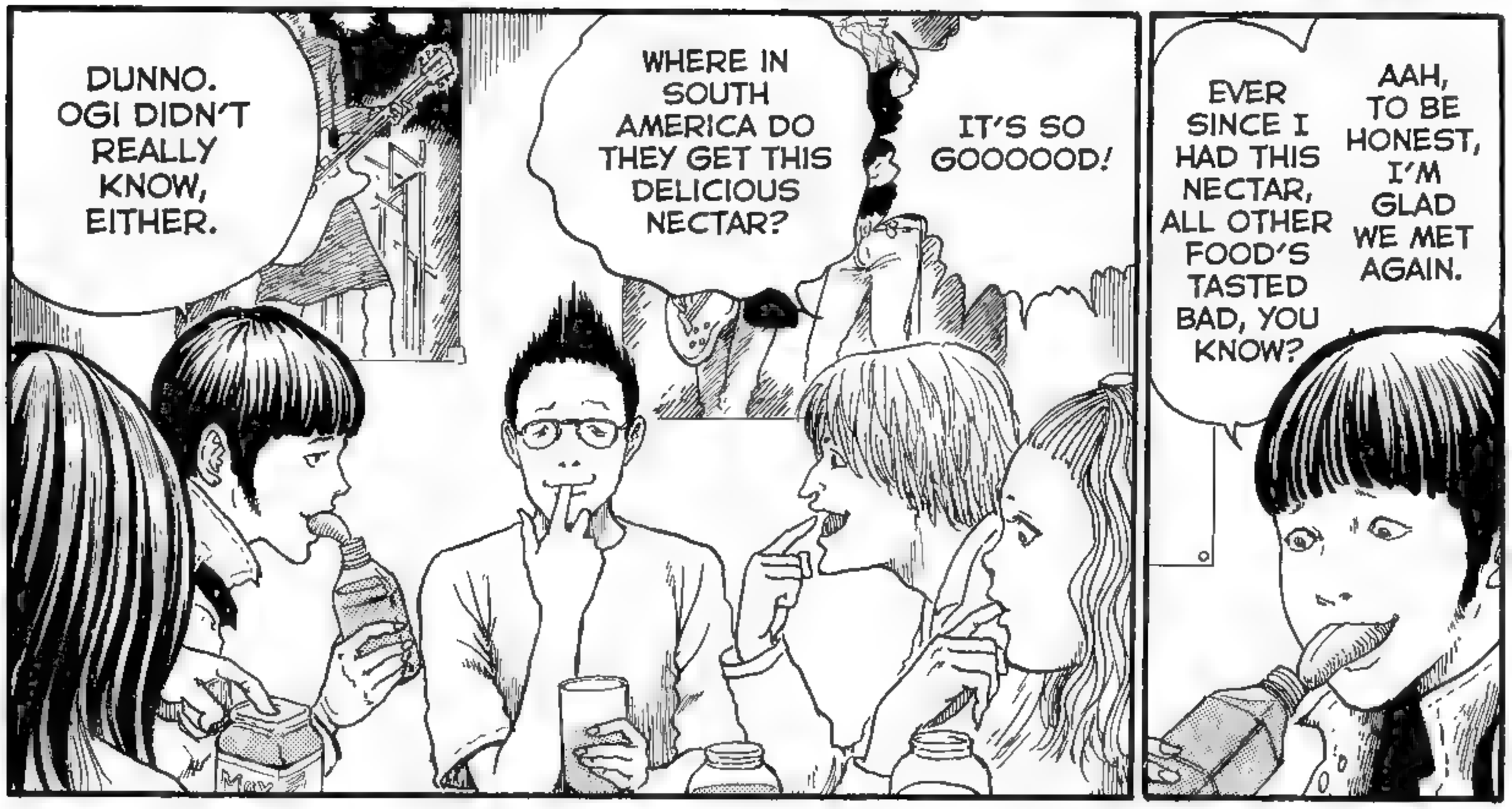
P- PRETEND WE NEVER SAW IT...


Max Coffee

NO WAY. IT'S PROBABLY JUST SOME NEW KIND OF WALL HANGING.
HEY? WAS THAT REALLY OGI?


YOU GAVE YOURSELF MORE, THOUGH?
OKAY! NOW IT'S IN FIVE EQUAL PARTS.
I DID NOT.

IT'S EQUAL. NO WHINING.
YOU'RE SPLITTING IT EVENLY?


DUNNO. OGI DIDN'T REALLY KNOW, EITHER.
WHERE IN SOUTH AMERICA DO THEY GET THIS DELICIOUS NECTAR?
IT'S SO GOOOOOD!
EVER SINCE I HAD THIS NECTAR, ALL OTHER FOOD'S TASTED BAD, YOU KNOW?
AAH, TO BE HONEST, I'M GLAD WE MET AGAIN.

AKIRA

W-WHAT THE HELL?

HUH? WHERE'D YASUMIN GO?!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

A GAS EXPLOSION ?!

I MEAN, LOOK!!

TH- THAT *IS* YASUMIN!

YASUMIN, HANG IN THERE!!

W-WHY WOULD...

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!

AAAAAH!

IT'S NO USE. HE'S TOTALLY FLATTENED.

H-HANG ON. THIS. THIS LOOKS THE SAME AS THE THING AS IN OGI'S APARTMENT.

STAY COOL... KEEP CALM...

WHY?

...

WHY?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WAS THERE SOME-THING GOING ON WITH THEM?

W-WHY WOULD OGI AND YASUMIN BOTH BE SMASHED FLAT...?

...WAS ACTUALLY OGI.

IT MEANS... THE THING IN OGI'S APARTMENT ...

SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THIS FLATTENED THING? THIS IS MY APARTMENT!

CALM DOWN, RIRUKO. LET'S JUST GO OUTSIDE FOR A MINUTE AND COOL OFF.

THE POLICE? NUH-UH. IT'LL JUST TURN INTO A HUGE HASSLE.

AT ANY RATE, THE POLICE... WE HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE.

HOW DID THEY END UP LIKE THAT?

WHY WOULD THOSE TWO...

IT'S TOO IMPOS-SIBLE.

RIGHT. THIS IS A DREAM.

THIS CAN'T BE REAL.

WE'RE DREAM-ING.

AAAAAH! YUM!

AH, I'M HAVING SOME, TOO.

IT'S SAD THAT *THIS* IS A DREAM.

THEN I GUESS THIS NECTAR'S A DREAM, TOO.

I MEAN, IT REALLY IS AMAZING.

BAM

AAAAH!

...TENED...

...FLAT...

NOW RIRUKO IS...

R-RIRUKO...

WHEN YOU EAT THE NECTAR, YOU GET SMASHED.

IT'S THE NECTAR...

HE SAID THE NATIVE PEOPLE TOLD HIM TO MAKE SURE NO ONE NOTICES YOU EATING THIS NECTAR.

RIGHT. THAT REMINDS ME. OGI SAID SOMETHING...

EAT IT SO NO ONE NOTICES?

HOW DOES THIS WORK EXACTLY...

B-BUT SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT. WE HAD SOME TOO.

W-WHAT?!

SO IS THIS GOING TO HAPPEN TO US, TOO?!

MAYBE THAT'S THE THING?

AND IF THEY DO NOTICE, YOU GET HIT...

BUT MAYBE IF WHOEVER IT IS DOESN'T NOTICE WHILE YOU'RE EATING THE NECTAR, YOU'RE OKAY...

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KEEP FROM NOTICING.

NO IDEA. IT'S LIKE... MAYBE IT'S THE WORK OF SOME SUPERNATURAL POWER THAT CROSSES DIMENSIONS?

WHY WOULD YOU GET SMASHED FLAT, THOUGH...

BEING NOTICED OR WHATEVER...

POWER FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION ?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE.

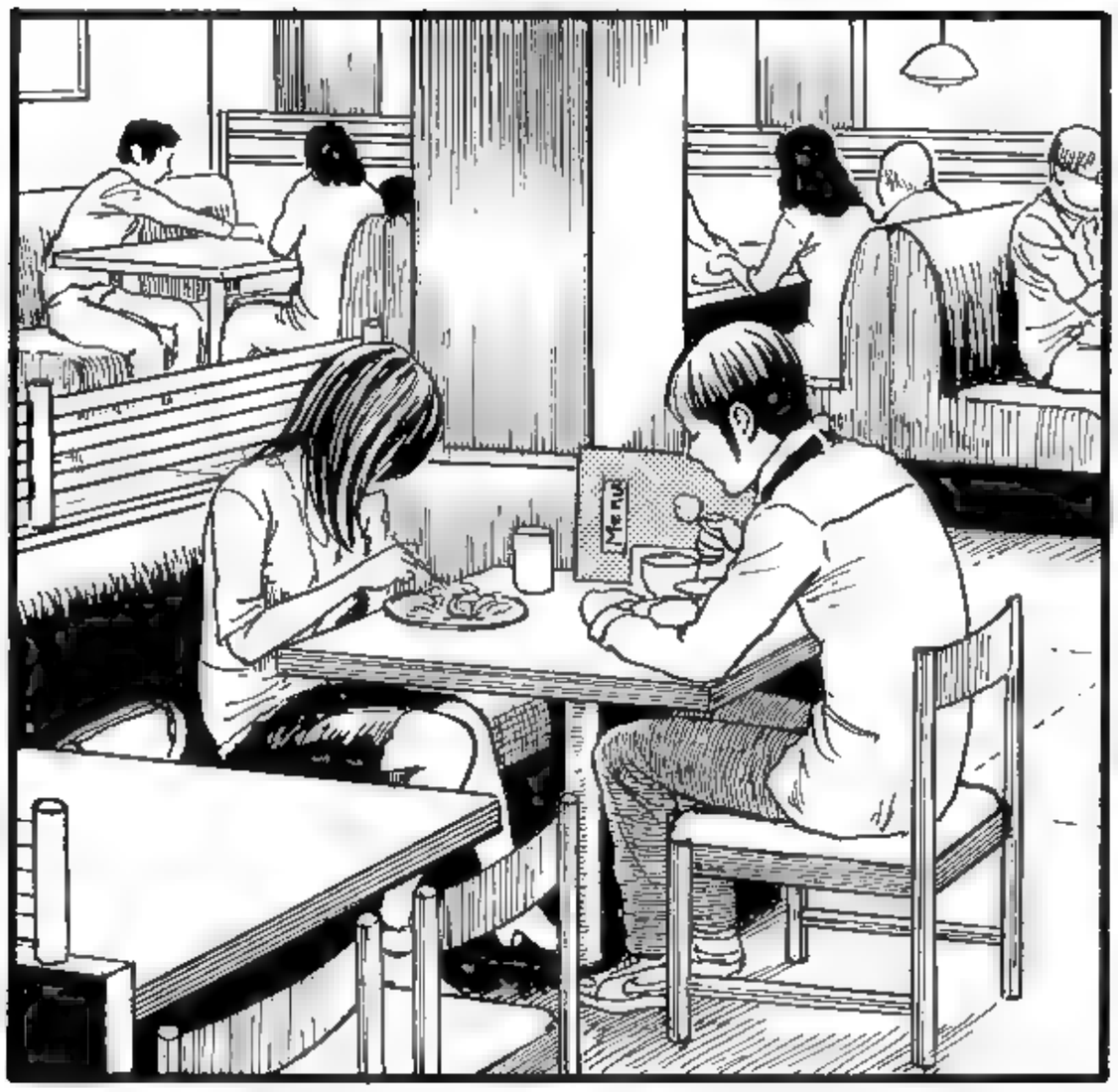
HA HA HA HA!

NGH... HEH HEH HEH!

...

I'M OUT OF HERE.

I CAN'T BE A PART OF THIS.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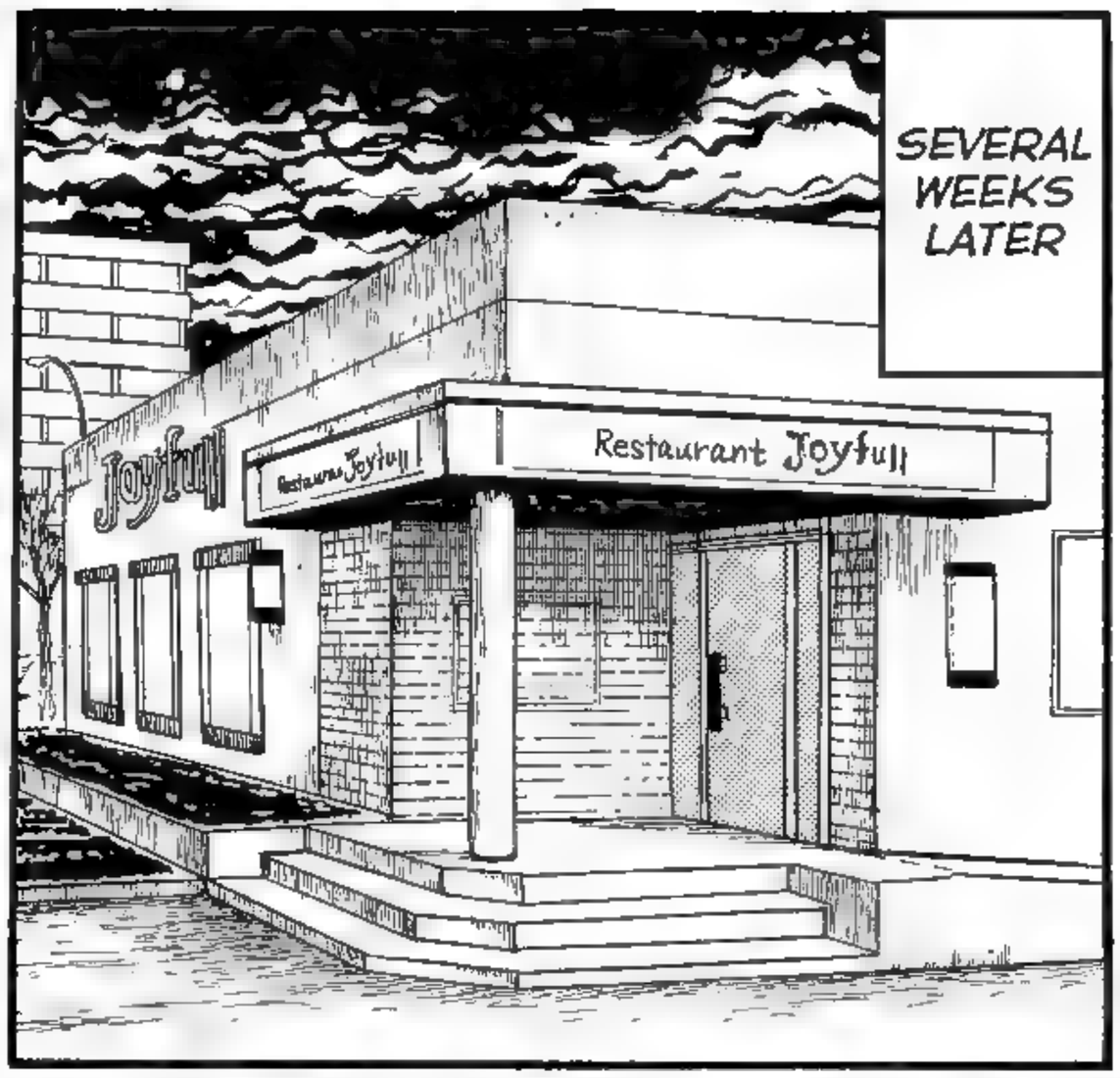
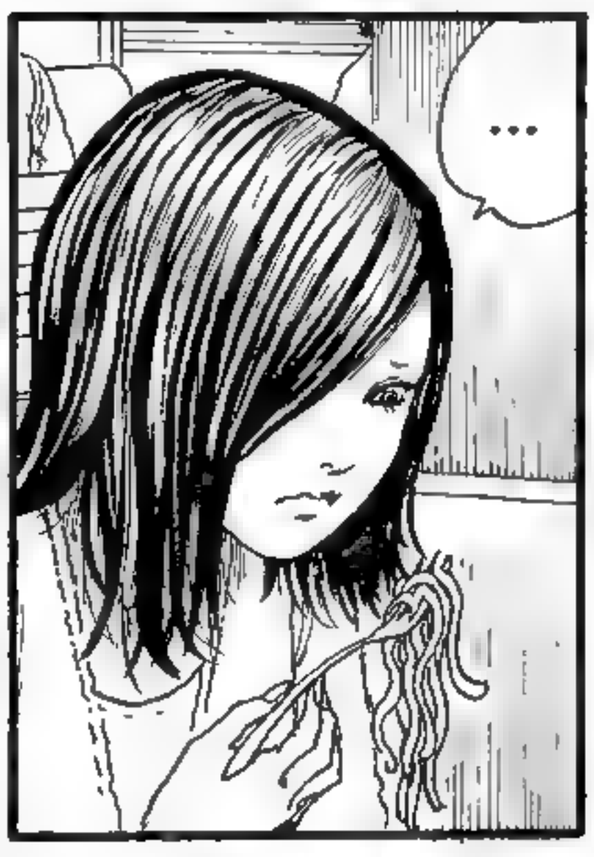

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER
Joyfull
Restaurant Joyfull
Restaurant Joyfull

THIS IS TERRIBLE. I CAN'T EAT IT.
IT'S NO USE ...
ME NEITHER ...
Menu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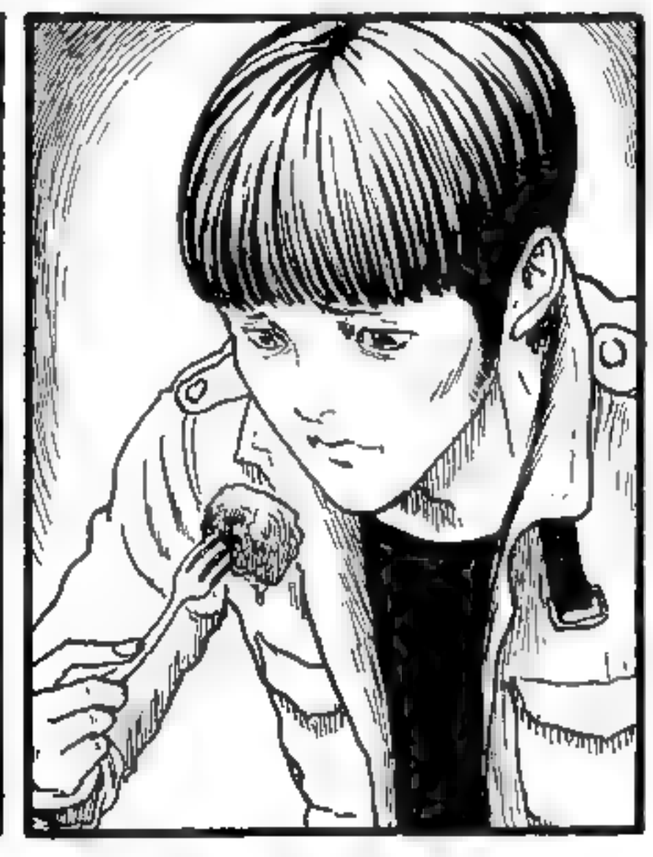


JUST TWICE. I KNOW I WAS RISKING MY LIFE.
...

YOU DIDN'T... YUE, HAVE YOU HAD ANY SINCE THEN?

...EVERY-THING I'VE EATEN HAS BEEN AWFUL.
EVER SINCE I HAD THAT NECTAR ...

...THE NECTAR TASTES GOOD, THOUGH?
YEAH. BUT...
MAYBE THE NECTAR DESTROYED OUR SENSE OF TASTE.

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS KAME.

I DID, TOO... BUT IT WASN'T KAMEDA.

BUT WHAT SURPRISED ME WAS THAT THEY FOUND SEVERAL OTHER SMASHED BODIES AFTER THAT.

THAT REMINDS ME. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THE BODIES OF RIRUKO AND YASUMIN ON THE NEWS, HUH?

THE MYS-TERIOUS SMASHED BODIES?

BUT I WONDER IF HE GAVE IT AWAY WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION OR ANYTHING.

THAT DAMNED KAMEDA. HE PROBABLY GAVE HIS NECTAR AWAY BECAUSE HE WAS SCARED.

INSTEAD, SEVERAL PEOPLE HE KNEW ARE DEAD.

THEY MUST HAVE HAD SOME OF HIS NECTAR.

YOU'VE BOTH LOST WEIGHT.

'SUP... BEEN A WHILE, HUH? SUGIO, YUE.

IT MIGHT BE THE ONLY GOOD FOOD, BUT IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS...

BUT IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT TASTES GOOD TO US.

IF ONLY WE HADN'T EATEN THIS NECTAR...

AAH, DAMMIT. I'M STARV-ING.

...BUT ALL I CAN SAY IS "I DON'T KNOW."

I'VE TRIED ALL KINDS OF STUFF. TO FIND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING NOTICED AND NOT...

HUH?

...HOW TO NOT BE NOTICED.

THE PROB-LEM IS...

...

...THEY WANTED IT AND ALL.

I MEAN ...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

TRIED?

...HA HA...

AND I COULDN'T FIND ANY CLUES. TOTALLY SUCKS.

BUT THANKS TO THEM, I DON'T HAVE MUCH LEFT.

...

YUE.

I'M... HAVING SOME NECTAR.

I CAN'T TAKE IT...

AAH, I CAN'T ANYMORE.

OMF

TREMBLE TREMBLE

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

HAAAAH.

SO GOOD ...

GLUG

GULP

...

I'M HAVING SOME, TOO!!

D-DAMMIT!

TORS

Kabuto

SOMETHING— A HUGE THING CRUSHED SUGIO'S BODY.

...WHAT?

SOME-THING CRUSHED SUGIO.

I SAW IT... JUST NOW, I SAW IT...

SUGI-OOOOOO!

SUGI-OOOOO!

YUE! CALM DOWN!

HEE HEE HEE HEE!

HEEEEEEEE!

THERE'S A WAY TO LIVE EVEN IF YOU ARE NOTICED. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CRUSHED.

I'M SURE SUGIO PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE TO SHOW ME.

I GET IT. SOME-THING CRUSHES YOU!!

WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE BEFORE ...

JUST RUN AROUND!!

RUN! RUN!

WATCH ...

DO-JOE DO-JOE DO-JOE

DO-JOE DO-JOE DO-JOE

DO-JOE DO-JOE DO-JOE

WHIRL

AAH, IT'S SO GOOD.

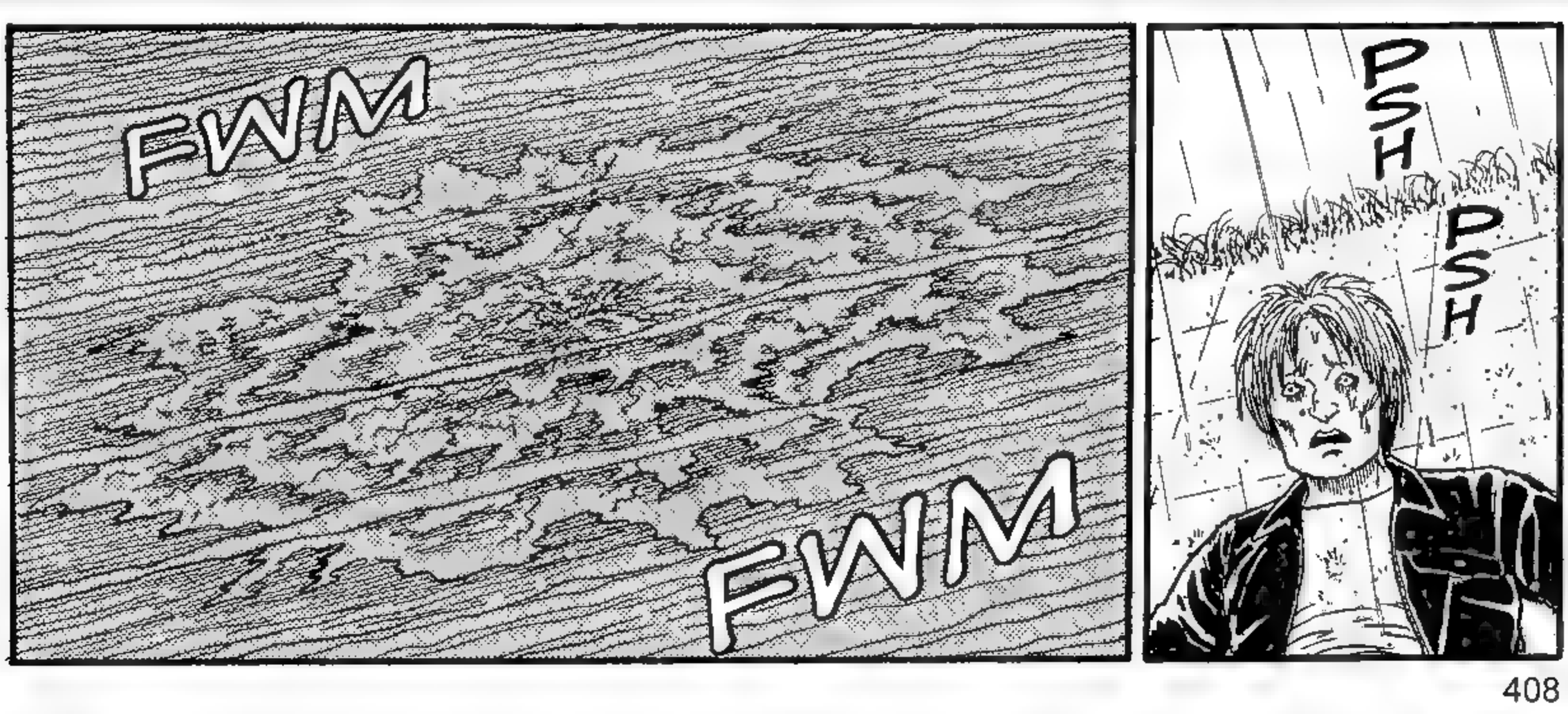
I'M SURE IT'S OKAY IN THE WATER.

HA HA HA! LOOK!!

...AH!

WHAAA

WHAP


FWM
FWM
PSH
PSH

...SUGIO'S WALLET?

HA HA HA HA!

HA... HA HA...

...HM?

BUT DAMN, THERE ARE SO MANY MOSQUI-TOES.

BZZ

AND I CAN'T FORGET TO ASK THE NATIVE PEOPLE HOW TO NOT BE NOTICED.

SLAP

BZZ

A MONTH LATER— A JUNGLE IN SOUTH AMERICA

HAAH HAAH

AAA

I JUST KNOW THAT SCRAP OF PAPER IN HIS WALLET WAS A MAP TO THE NECTAR.

I'M TOTALLY BRINGING SOME OF IT HOME.

AH!

KSH

ALMOST LIKE RADAR ANTENNAS.

FWSH

HYOON

W-WHAT KIND OF PLANT IS THIS?

THE BRANCHES ...ARE MOVING... IT'S LIKE AN ANIMAL.

HYOON

OH! IT'S BACK.

POP

MAYBE IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINA-TION...

HUH?! ONE OF THE BRANCHES JUST DIS-APPEARED.

AT ANY RATE, THIS PLANT SMELLS LIKE THE NECTAR.

OH! THIS IS THE TREE WHERE THEY GET IT!!

WHAT IS GOING ON? BRANCHES APPEARING AND DISAPPEARING...

WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

OOZE

SHRK

CHK

NECTAR!

AAALLLLL! RIIIIIIGHT!

WHAP

YAAP

SMASHED / END

SMASHED

JUNJI ITO STORY COLLECTION

Story & Art by Junji Ito

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
SMASHED is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains graphic violence and mature themes.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Junji Ito made his professional manga debut in 1987 and since then has gone on to be recognized as one of the greatest contemporary artists working in the horror genre. His titles include *Tomie* and *Uzumaki*, which have been adapted into live-action films; *Gyo*, which was adapted into an animated film; and his short story collections *Fragments of Horror*, *Shiver*, and *Frankenstein*, all of which are available from VIZ Media. Ito's influences include classic horror manga artists Kazuo Umezu and Hideshi Hino, as well as authors Yasutaka Tsutsui and H.P. Lovecraft.